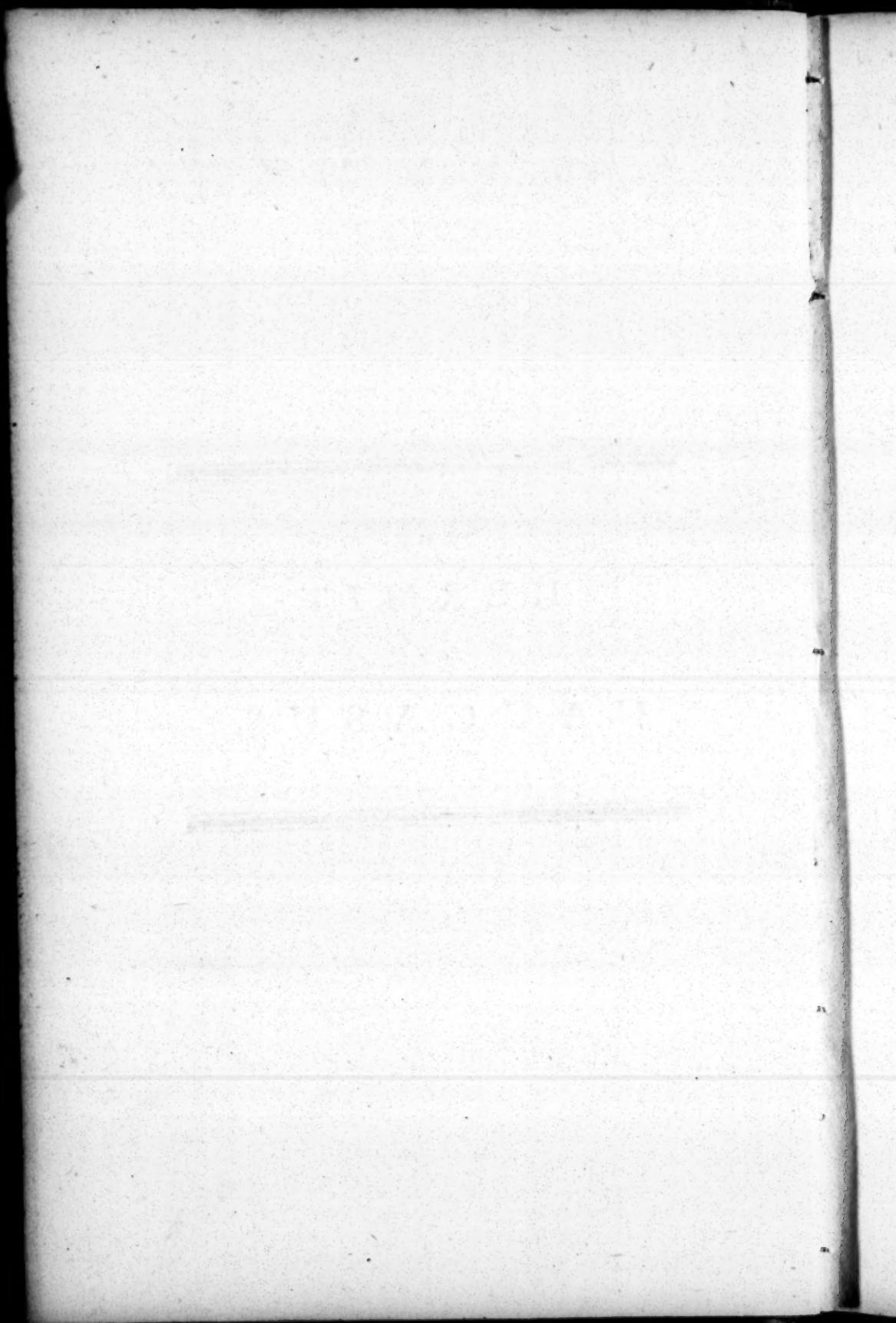


c.171. d.1.

THE
HERMIT
OF
CAUCASUS.



THE
HERMIT
OF
CAUCASUS,
AN
ORIENTAL ROMANCE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY JOSEPH MOSER,
AUTHOR OF TURKISH TALES, &c. &c.

“ Oh ! I have suffer'd,
With those that I saw suffer :
A brave vessel,
Who had no doubt some noble creatures in her,
Dash'd all to pieces.”

VOL. I.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR WILLIAM LANE,
AT THE
Minerva-Press,
LEADENHALL-STREET.

M.DCC.XCVI.

THE
H. R. M. T.

CAUCASUS

ORIENTAL ROMANCE



PRINTED FOR THE EASTERN

LIBRARY

1800

P R E F A C E.

THE readers and critics, who have honoured the Turkish Tales with their approbation, will please to observe, that in the following volumes, I have, in consequence of the promise made in the preface to that work, with a little more confidence, ventured to submit another production of the same nature to their inspection.

They will see that I have ascended one step higher in the regions of fancy; that I have made an effort toward the sublime, by

b

the

the introduction of a supernatural being: but whether they will allow the elevation to be any improvement, or the agent to be of any use, must be left to their decision.

To confess the truth, I tremble for the *Genius of the Mountain*, knowing, from *experience*, that all such allegorical representations, as may be called the machinery of a poem or romance, require more art in the management, than is generally imagined; especially in works of any length. We have frequently seen such beings, tho' called into action by the mental powers of the greatest masters, however vigorously they might commence their operations, flag
before

before they had got through half their work : *celestials* have become dull, and *infernals* sunk to such a torpid state, that their actions seemed rather calculated to excite *repose*, than either terror or disgust. When supernatural agents are introduced, it certainly ought, according to the *Horatian* rule, to be for the most important purposes, or as the English poet says :

“ To guide the course of wand’ring orbs on high,
“ And roll the planets thro’ the boundless sky.”

In short, they never should appear, but to stimulate the passions ; to influence the actions of mankind ; to ride on the whirlwind ; direct the storm ; to pour devastation ; or scatter blessings over a country ;

to bestow rewards upon virtuous individuals, and usher the souls of the just to the mansions of eternal bliss.

When one, or all of the preceding ends, are answered: when the sensibility of the reader is roused, and his emotions excited: when his spirit follows the pen of the writer: if, in that moment, a supernatural agent is brought forward, to perform some action that may render virtue more amiable, and vice more detestable; that may turn either the joy, or terror, its appearance excites, to the purpose of impressing the mind with sentiments of *religion, morality, and benevolence*, such a being is nobly
and

and properly introduced: on the contrary, when either a *god*, or a *devil*, appears *only* to perform, what might have been as well, or, perhaps, better achiev'd without them, it is impossible but that they must flag, both upon the mind of the author and reader; in every page, the allegory will become less *interesting*; the agents and spirits more *somniferous*; till at last they will seem, as if the threat of a poet, equally pre-eminent in the regions of nature, and the regions of fancy, was executing upon them.

“ I will rend an oak,

“ And peg thee in its knotty entrails, till

“ Thou’st howl’d away twelve winters.”

Having, therefore, in the preceding lines, attempted an apology for not making more use of the *Genius of the Mountain*, I think it necessary to say a word of the mountain itself, fearful that some critic may observe, that with a touch of my pen, I have shrunk the *immense Caucasus* to a *mole-hill*.

To this charge I should plead guilty, did I not think I had taken space enough into my canvass, whether we consider it historically or perspectively, for the scene which is there represented: and that although I have delineated but a small part of a stupenduous whole, I have endeavoured to
make

make that small part striking. To crowd a picture or book with too many objects, is more likely to produce confusion, than either *elegance* or *effect*; and indeed, I am so fearful of growing *dizzy*, from the flights that I have attempted, that I can assure the critics, if they suffer me to *descend* in safety, the next excursion we take together, shall be upon more level ground: it shall be in a country, where we stand a greater chance of obtaining a sight of human habitations; where we may now and then meet with an *Inn*, or *Caravansary*, and be, in some degree, certain of a comfortable resting place, if not a chearful fire-side in the evening.

Another

Another objection will, I fear, be made to this work; for that, however, it may, as Bays says, "*elevate and surprize,*" it is by no means calculated to terrify the mind, to harrow up the soul, and, what is worse, that the author hath endeavoured to conduct the principal personages, by a series of not *quite* unnatural events, from misery to happiness.

All this I am ready to admit; though the only excuse I can make, for not, at least, concluding more dolefully, is, that the following pages have taken the colour of a mind more susceptible of *comic* than *tragic* sensations.

When

When a traveller begins a journey, or a reader a book; supposing both to have the same object in view, *amusement*; I should imagine it would not be very conducive to it, was the former to meet, at every turn of the road, with crosses and gibbets, to be in dread of robbers and murderers at every inn: or should the latter be petrified with fear at every page, arising from an assemblage of ghosts, goblins, banditti, rats behind the arras, daggers, and death watches: yet we know that people travel in countries, where, if we can believe report, every forest, wood, rock, and mountain, have heretofore furnished scenes worthy of the pencil
of

of *Salvator*, and read books, every chapter of which might afford ample scope for the talents of *infernal Breughel*, was he living, to delineate their contents: books which seem to be written for no other purpose, than to introduce into the human system *unpleasant sensations*, and

“ Send their readers trembling to their beds.”

As I have said that I am of another turn of mind, it will be scarcely necessary to state, that after my solitary excursion upon the mountain, I was happy to revisit the busy haunts of men, which the reader, whose *patience* is unexhausted, will find that I do in
the

the last volume; and while I congratulate him and myself upon our arrival, I beg to be indulged in the hope, that he has met with nothing upon the road, to make him regret his having taken the journey.

Improvement in *knowledge* and *virtue*, is, or ought to be, the end of those, who make either mental or corporeal excursions.

If the subsequent pages should, in any degree, deserve to be ranked among the *road books*, or *guides*, toward these desirable attainments, the ardent wish of the author will be gratified, because he is certain, in that case, they

they will be well received, and that the critics will be inclined to pardon the defects of his head, while they approve the sentiments of his heart.

THE

THE
HERMIT OF CAUCASUS.

PART THE FIRST.

CHAP. I.

THE sombre shades of the morning hung upon Mount Caucasus; streams of light rose from the horizon, and darted their rays through the clouds which envelop'd its snow-crown'd brow. As the fog began gradually to disperse, every moment discover'd more clearly the rocks, precipices, torrents, and desolation, that reign'd around.—When the sun arose, the horrors of the scene

VOL. I. B seemed

seemed to increase.—Trees torn from their roots, brooks swollen to rivers, fragments of stone scatter'd in wild confusion, and every object in view exhibited traces of a recent storm.

Ismael, the Hermit, who had stood some minutes upon a prominent rock, wrap'd in deep contemplation, now descended by a narrow path, the work of his own hands, into a small plain, near the rapid stream, and throwing himself upon the ground, he thus ejaculated his thanks to the bright luminary before him:

“Thou beneficent fountain of light and heat, suffer Ismael, one of the vilest of reptiles that crawl upon the face of this globe, which thy influence cheers and illuminates, through thy medium to offer his prayers, thanks, and praises, to the living God, for his favour and
3 protection

protection from the time that he first sought this solitude to the last dreadful night, when the general war of the elements seem'd to threaten nature with a total dissolution !”

“ Grant that, through the small portion of my existence which remaineth, I may preserve that internal peace, which a long residence in this solitude, and a total forgetfulness of the cares and follies, the vices and ingratitude of mankind, hath enabled me to attain; so that when I mingle with the earth, upon which I now prostrate, my soul purified from the corruption of mortality, may partake of the peace and joy of thy heavenly Mansions !”

When the sage had ended his prayer he arose, and pursued the winding rugged path that run on the edge of the

torrent, which, after bounding from rock to rock, either lost in the thick foliage of majestic trees, whose trunks standing in all directions, seemed almost coeval with the Creation; or descending with rapidity till it spread into a broad and smooth expanse of water, whose lucid bosom, reflecting the solar beams, and the rude, but sublime, scenery around, flowed gently on to the mouth of the river.

When Ismael arrived at a precipice that overhung the Gulph, and from which the prospect over the ocean was unbounded, he stopped to contemplate the objects before him as the distant vessels arose, and seemed at first but as specks upon the horizon: He marked them as they increased in size, the nearer they approached to his organs of vision, and diminished as they receded from him. He pursued them
with

with his eye, while they spread their canvass, and let loose their streamers to court the breeze as the waves flowed in gentle undulations, and rays of light, with masses of shadow, played alternately upon the surface of the water.

“Alas!” said the sage, “are not the objects now gliding before me too faithful an antitype of human life? — When a man first passes the horizon of this sublunary globe, he is like them scarcely discernable, every hour brings his actions nearer to the view, he floats at first upon an ocean as smooth, and perhaps as deceitful as that now before me. Is not the vessel in sight, with its sails bent, the hands actively employed in the pursuit and accumulation of gain, through every country and climate, a just representation of the avidity, with which mankind endeavour

deavour to grasp riches in the prime of life ?”

Scarce had Ismael made this reflection ere the wind rose, the clouds gathered, lightning flashed from the sky, and thunder echoed through the subterranean abodes of the mountain. The tremendous waves now mounted aloft, and then sunk into an unfathomable abyss ; the vessels, no longer under the command of the mariners, seemed to yield to the violence of the tempest ; when the sage looking upon them with compassion said, “ Too soon is the eventful metaphor of human life completed ! The objects before me, like mankind, tossed to and fro by the violence and storm of passions, foundering in the ocean of dissipation, striking on the rocks of ambition, or shipwrecked on the quicksands of dissimulation, struggle in vain to reach a
port,

port, where they may rest for a few hours, before the hurricane, that must end in their final extinction, arrives, where !” ———

At this instant the ears of the Hermit were assailed by the sound of ordnance firing signals of distress, and a shriek that seemed to rend the air. Too soon he discerned the cause—a vessel had been dashed against the base of the mountain, and the sea was covered with planks, chests, and other parts of its dissolution; but he could not discover the smallest appearance of any human being. As the storm seemed fatiated with the destruction of the ship, he descended, in the hope some occasion would, notwithstanding, offer for the exertion of his benevolence; but ineffectual were his endeavours, and, with a mind and body spent with terror and fatigue, he re-

B 4

luctantly

luctantly returned to his cave, where, after a slight refreshment, he offered up his prayers to the Throne of the Omnipotent, and reflecting on the events of the day, sunk into a short, but disturbed slumber.

CHAP. II.

WHEN the first beams of the morning began to irradiate the face of nature, the Hermit started from his rocky couch, as his imagination had suggested that a being, of the most angelic form, had, in the dead of night, cried to him, in the sweetest accents, "Rise, Ismael, and succour the distressed!" He descended to the scene of his morning oraisons, and when he arose from the earth, perceived, standing

B 5

cavern,,

cavern, at no great distance, where he had formerly resided.

While the ladies endeavoured to seek a short suspension from their sorrow in the arms of sleep, the benevolent Hermit returned to the precipice that overhung the ocean, in order to see whether chance had conducted any other fugitives to seek an asylum among those rocks, which had caused the destruction of their vessel; and having explored the shores in vain, he was returning, when he observed a man, whose air and apparel denoted him of a superior rank, ascending by the narrow path, and who in a few minutes stood before him. Mutual was their surprise at this encounter. The figure of the Hermit, whose dress of brown cloth falling from the shoulders in drapery at once simple and majestic, whose beard, which reached below his girdle, and

and locks silvered by the hand of time, seemed adapted to the wild and horrid sublimity of the scenery around, impressed upon the mind of the stranger, an idea that he was a supernatural being, he therefore approached him with mingled awe and admiration, saying, "Oh! reverend father, whether sage or prophet, who dost from this thy elevated station look down upon the cares, the perils and distresses, attendant upon mortality! If the unhappy Amurath hath offended thee, be satisfied with the punishment that thou hast inflicted, and command the destroying angel to close the vial, and cease to pour his wrath upon the head of an unhappy parent! Parent did I say? No! nothing of that name remains, but the heart-rending grief, the eternal anxiety, which I am doomed to suffer! Oh! my lovely daughters!

lost ! for ever lost ! sunk in the abyss beneath us !”

The Hermit, who had listened to Amurath with the most interested attention, thus addressed him :—“ Vain and nugatory are the endeavours of short-sighted mortals, to shut the book of fate, or avert the decrees of Omnipotence !—You address as a superior Being, a sinner like yourself, a man, long tost in the storms of contention, the son of vanity, the pupil of folly, and at last the victim of dissipation ; from the vortex of which, when he found that his constitution was broken, and fortune engulph’d ; when the means of licentiousness and debauchery were no longer in his power, he had just pride enough left to enable him to retreat, and relinquish a world, in which the finger of scorn pointed out Ismael as an object of contempt.”—“ When I
first

first arrived at this solitude, the violence of youthful passions had not yet subsided; daily I lamented the want of sensual gratifications, and nightly my couch was moistened with the tears of repining and discontent.—In this manner the summer passed away, the winter approached, the leaves were swept from these immense forests, the snow descended from the top of Caucasus, and the winds whistled around the head of Ismael. Secluded from the world; at war within, the morning was ushered in by despondence, the evening closed with despair, dreadful was the situation of my mind, the horrors attending upon my existence, seemed hourly to increase, the dæmon of destruction took possession of my soul, and I determined to plunge from this precipice into the gulph beneath us. Furious with rage I had gained the brink, and but one awful moment seemed to stand.

stand between this world and eternity, when a voice arrested me by these accents: 'Wretch! wilt thou close a life of sin by a death of suicide!' — Struck to the heart, I turned, and, lo! the Genius of the Mountain stood before me! — "Ismael," continued he, while I prostrated myself at his feet, "Omnipotence hath extended the arm of his mercy to save thee from perdition! Return to thy cavern, and let this important axiom be impressed upon thy mind; that there is no place devoid of happiness, except the mansions of the wicked. Take the beast that drags, and the peasant that follows the plough, for thy example; and observe; that the day spent in labour, is succeeded by the night of undisturbed repose; that the meal procured by industry, and sweetened by appetite, is preferable to the table at which lassitude courts the temptation of luxury.

Drive

Drive the dæmon of sloth from thy dwelling; let every hour be recorded by the employment of thy hands, or the improvement of thy intellectual faculties, and instead of indolently and sinfully repining for what is beyond thy attainment, consider the blessings still within thy reach, bend thy mind to thy situation, be humble, and be happy."

" Struck by the admonition of the Genius, a ray of light seemed in an instant to pervade the darkness and horror that had hitherto enveloped my soul. I retired from the precipice, and sought my cave, where, after prostrating myself in adoration of the Supreme Being, I began my diurnal course of labour, by clearing the entrance of my dwelling from the weeds and bushes that impeded it. I cultivated a small garden, the woods and forests around supplied

supplied me with fruits and honey, which, though wild, the appetite with which I partook of them rendered delicious. I frequently traversed the shore, and gathered necessaries, and even superfluities, which the tempest had driven upon the strand; but what completed the bounty of Providence, and the satisfaction of Ismael, was, the finding on the banks of the river a large chest of books, consisting chiefly of philosophical and moral works. From the hour of this acquisition I date my permanent happiness; every object assumed a new and smiling aspect, the languor of study was relieved by the activity of labour, and bodily exertions gave place to mental inquiries. Forty years I have passed in this situation, and every day hath increased the fervour of my adoration to the All-wise, and All-merciful Being for his blessing and protection dispensed to the wretched Ismael."

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

IN the discourse, recorded in the last chapter, the Hermit and Amurath, arrived at the cavern, when the latter thus addressed the former.

“Thou oh Ismael! hast been peculiarly the favourite of Providence! gladly to enjoy the same repose, would the unhappy Amurath sequester himself from the world, in which the path of life has been, to him, strew’d with thorns! but, that cares which extended far beyond myself, have hitherto connected me with the human race; that
connexion

connexion is now broken;—the chain that link'd me to society divided. The sun that gilded the morn of yesterday, saw me the father of two daughters, beautiful as the Houris of Paradise! What am I now? bereav'd of my children—fortune—friends!—I stand alone like the bald and barren trunk that over-hangs the precipice, a mark for elemental fury!”

“Hold!” said the Hermit, “great as may have been your loss; keen as are your sufferings; bitter as were the ingredients of the cup you have already tasted, your misfortunes are not, I hope, extended so far, as your despair seems inclin'd to pursue them. Two females, beautiful as you describe them, sav'd from the wreck, but by what means I know not, are at present under my protection.”

The

The raptures of the parent were mingled with incredulity, 'till Ismael led him to the cavern; at the entrance of which, the virgins, recovered from their fatigue, were pointing to the sea, and lamenting their forlorn situation.— Joy flash'd from their eyes at the appearance of Amurath, who threw himself into their extended arms. Mutual congratulations only subsided for a moment, while the Hermit said to Amurath.

“ My son, learn by this rencontre, to bow with humility to the decrees of Omnipotence!—In the recovery of your children, you forget all other losses: but does not this reflection rise in your mind, and excite your gratitude? That the Being, who has miraculously preserv'd your offspring, may, probably, with the same ease, restore to you your friends and fortune?
and

and which, I trust, the events of this happy hour, and the conduct of your ensuing days, will render you not unworthy of. If my advice, or assistance, can contribute to your present ease, or future prosperity, when I am made acquainted with the history of your life, you may command both. The purple and vermilion tints of declining day fade upon the sight;—black and heavy clouds sailing slowly through the atmosphere, envelop the mountains around;—the bird of night screech's from the rocks, and warns us to retire;—in the morning we will renew the conversation.”

The Hermit led Amurath to his cave, and accommodating him as well as the circumstances of the time, and place would admit, after recommending him to the protection of heaven, he retired to another part of it, and sought

fought that calm and peaceful repose, which attends the couch of virtue and benevolence.

Darkness and silence pervaded the atmosphere; even the murmuring of the winds through the surrounding groves and forests, had subsided.

When the moon arose, all nature seemed to partake of the calm which diffused itself over the slumbers of the Hermit and his friends. Alas! how short was its duration?—at the noon of night their ears were assailed by the shrill and piercing sound of a trumpet, to which succeeded a shout, that echo'd through the woods, and reverberated from the vaulted caverns of Caucasus. A sound so unusual in these regions of solitude, rous'd Ismael and Amurath; the latter, trembling for the safety of his daughters, flew to their abode, where he found them in undiscrivable agitation.

tion. Here they were, in a few minutes, join'd by the Hermit; and as the shouts and clangour still continued, at intervals, sometimes loud and violent, and at other periods dying away in distant murmurs; the careful Ismael again recommending his friends to the protection of heaven, left them, to endeavour to discover the cause of their alarm.

With caution he descended to the precipice, where the resplendant brightness of the moon, added to the grandeur and effect of the scene; the angles of the rock; the ivy cover'd battlements of a ruin'd tower in the distance, and the pines and cypress on the foreground, seem'd just touch'd with silver, while the immense masses of stone, and groves beneath, were thrown into the deepest shade. The lofty tops of the mountains were illuminated in some,
in

in other parts softened and melted into the atmosphere, by light clouds which hung upon their brows; and the river, undisturb'd by a zephyr, reflecting the glorious planet, displayed in its lucid bosom, the magnificent and sublime scenery around.

As Ismael contemplated the view before him, his eye caught a gleam of light, which streaming through the trees, seemed to discover bodies moving with rapidity, and flashes, which he judg'd to arise from the moon beams playing upon burnish'd arms. He descended with the caution he had hitherto observed, and the conviction of his suggestions follow'd, as he could distinguish the forms of several persons, and hear the accents of human voices; he also discerned, at the mouth of the river, several vessels. Eager to communicate his discoveries to his guests,
he

he gained their subterranean abode, and found them waiting for his return in tremulous anxiety.

CHAP. IV.

THE account brought by the Hermit, was by no means calculated to quiet the apprehensions of the daughters of Amurath; they clung round their father, as if for protection, while he exclaimed,

“Doth the fates, which have through life pursued your unhappy parent, extend their malignity to his race?—Must Galatie and Anime, after hitherto escaping a variety of perils; after
their

their tender frames have indured unnumbered hardships, become at last a prey to the licentious passions of those savage chiefs, Omar and Asgar?"

"Never will that happen," replied both the daughters; "think not that the example of a virtuous and much regretted mother, or the precepts of an honoured father, will ever be eradicated from the minds of their offspring!—the insidious chiefs shall never add the daughters of Amurath to the number of their slaves!"

These words, for a moment, soothed the parent's heart, and Ismael seized this opportunity to remonstrate with him upon the mistrust he seemed to entertain of the Divine protection.

"At least for the present," continued he, "you are in a place of security;

curity ; as a proof of this assertion, follow me."

He led them through several avenues, formed by nature in the rock, to a plain, on every side of which, lofty trees, and immense masses of stone, composed a barrier that seemed impenetrable. A cascade of clear water descended from the rocks on one side, while the vine, and other plants of that species, clinging to every projection, fell in picturesque festoons, and formed several natural arbours ; through one of which, the Hermit and his companions entered a grotto, spangled by ores, spars, and crystalline substances. A ray of light, which darted through a chasm near the top, illuminated and displayed the beauties of the cavern ; and from the farther side, another aperture led to a winding and rugged path, which

which descended to the foot of the mountain.

“ Here,” said Ismael, “ is a recess which I hope is impossible to be develop’d. Rely upon my care, and should any danger assail you, my long residence upon the mountain, and thorough knowledge of its devious and tangled ways, will at all times enable me to conduct you to a safe retreat, was this by any means to be discovered.”

After receiving their thanks, he once more left the fugitives, and retrac’d his way back to the cavern, whence he descended to the spot, from which he could survey the mouth of the river. The sounds that had pierced the dull ear of midnight, and caused the alarm which has been mentioned, had subsided; but he observed two vessels, which lay as if at anchor in a

small port. Returning, with the assistance of Amurath, he prepared the inner part of their retreat near the cascade, for the reception of Galatie and Anime, and the bed of their father was placed at the extreme entrance.

When their fears were in some degree subsided, and they had refreshed themselves with the food which the bountiful Hermit set before them, he urged Amurath to pursue the design of the preceding evening, and inform him what were the misfortunes that had contributed with the storm and shipwreck, to force him to seek an asylum in the wilds and caves of Caucasus.

THE HISTORY OF AMURATH.

“The first hours that impress themselves upon the memory of Amurath,” he replied, “were clouded by misfortune.”

tune. Born in the kingdom of Vissapour, at the early age of seven years, I had occasion to lament, that parents the most indulgent, and whom, I have since heard, were revered for their virtues, fell martyrs to the rapacity of a horde of wandering Tartars; and with the greater number of the inhabitants of a village, were carried off as prisoners, after an obstinate resistance. Perhaps the cruelest part of the misfortune that befel my parents, they considered as being separated from me. My mother rent the air with her shrieks; and her distress so far wrought upon the humanity of the Tartar chief, that he ordered me diligently to be sought after; but as Kermia, my nurse, had, on the first alarm, caught me in her arms, and retreated to the woods, all endeavours to find me proved ineffectual.

“ When the Tartars were withdrawn, we returned to the spot on which our village had been situated; but alas! it was only to join a miserable group, who were lamenting the loss of their friends, and weeping upon the sites of their ruin'd dwellings. Another alarm drove us again into the woods, which stretch'd towards the western coast of the peninsula of the Indies.—Here we wandered a long time, and suffered incredible hardships from hunger and fatigue, ere we regained the open country. We had now hopes, that in some hospitable town or village our labours would end; but before we could reach any habitable place, Kermia, exhausted with fatigue, fainted upon the plain. This accident, and the fright that attended it, for I thought her dead, had such an effect upon me, that quite spent by my cries and efforts to assist her, I sunk

sunk at last by her side.—How long we continued in this situation, I know not.

“ When my senses returned, I found we were surrounded by a band of wandering Fakirs, who used every means to restore Kermia to life, which they at length effected. They then relieved our distresses, and when we were tolerably recovered, placed us upon the camels that carried their baggage ; and after a journey of several moons, we arrived at the city of Gouro, situated upon the banks of the Ganges.

“ Kermia, who had been a long time declining in health, was, by the hospitable Fakirs, placed in the house of Koufrou, at a small distance from the town ; but notwithstanding every assistance was afforded her, she expired in a few days, leaving me a helpless

orphan, to the protection of the Indian with whom we resided.

“ Fortunately for me, Koufrou proved a man of great humanity; and although he had a large family of his own, the tale of my infantile distresses, which he learned from my nurse Kermia, and the recommendation of the Fakirs, determined him to interest himself in my future destiny. The years of childhood, in which I partook of the same education as the children of my protector, I shall pass over. My first employment was to tend the silkworms in the gardens, where numbers were engaged in collecting the labours of that useful insect; and which, after being manufactured, were, through the medium of Koufrou, transmitted to Bengal. As my years increased, I succeeded to the higher branches of my patron’s business, and frequently
went

went with him into the country, to collect larger quantities of silk than his mulberry plantations supplied. Delightful to me were these excursions, as every hour was pleasantly and usefully employed, and every object presented to the benificent Koufrou, an opportunity to increase my general knowledge, or turn my mind to the practice of some moral duty.

“ In one of our journeys, our way lay along the fertile banks of the Ganges, through the kingdom of Serenagar ; and we arrived one evening on a plain, near the center of which stood a large and beautiful building of white marble, the form of which was quadrangular, though three sides of it were almost covered by ivy, and the foliage of a great variety of trees, that, planted by the hand of nature, and nurtured by time, had disposed themselves in the

most romantic and picturesque groups. The calmness of the evening; the glowing reflection of the setting sun mingling with the beautiful tints which age had marked upon the building; the grand masses on the fore ground, broken and lightened by creeping plants and flowers, which either bloom'd in clusters, raised their heads in spiral elegance, or scatter'd o'er the verdure, formed a carpet of the most vivid colours. The plain in different parts spread with immense stones, and dismembered columns, over which the vine wandered in luxuriant wildness, added to the solemnity and beauty of the scene, and impressed my mind with an awe and admiration, which Koufrou interrupted by saying,

“ Amurath, I behold with pleasure, that you are struck with the solemnity and magnificence of one of the last vestiges

vestiges of the grandeur of the Mogul empire. The building before us was formerly the palace, and now remains as the monument of a man, who through great part of his life, was called the fortunate Hagi.—In the morning of his day, the favourite of the Sultan, pleasure and riches seemed equally to court him: yet, by his dissipation and rapacity, he incurred the vengeance of heaven; the genius that protected his youth, fled from him in his riper years; his crimes banished him from the court; his wealth mouldered away, and of all his immense acquisitions, only this spot remained, where he finished a life useless to the world, and burthen some to himself, by a premature death. From the fate of Hagi, learn my son, to place no value in riches, unless accompanied by virtue, and guarded by temperance."

While Koufrou repeated this admonition, the servants drove our camels into the court, and pitched our tents near the gate of the building. When we had made a slight repast, and, after embracing my benevolent patron, I retired for the night; my spirits sunk, and a trembling seized my frame, which I attributed to the heat of the atmosphere.

Though the evening was far advanced, instead of seeking repose, I continued at the door of my tent, looking at the palace, which the effect of the moon upon it's moss-covered turrets, and ivy'd columns, rendered an object highly interesting to a contemplative mind.—“What labour! what a vast quantity of expensive materials!” said I to myself, “have been used to erect the pile before me!—How much were strength and duration considered
by

by the founder? forgetting the boundary of his own existence, he seemed to look forward for centuries; forgetting how small a space he should soon be called upon to occupy, his ideas were all absorbed in splendour and extent. This monument of the owners capacious mind, uninhabited, delapidated, shall continue mouldering for a series of years, and at last sink into that earth, to which he has long since been united." Lost in these reflections, and intently gazing on the object that gave rise to them, I imagined I discerned, at a window of one of the apartments over the gate, a female form, who seemed to wave her hand; starting at the discovery, at first I was inclined to believe it a vision of my disturbed fancy; determined to be convinced, I took my cimeter in my hand, and approached the gate. The figure still continued, and my surprise increased,

increased, when my ear caught the soft accents of a female voice, singing some stanzas. Though I was not near enough to understand the words, the sound thrill'd through my heart: but while I was attempting to engage her attention, by speaking as loud as I durst, for fear of alarming Koufrou, she vanished, without taking the least notice of me. An impulse for which I could not account, determined me to enter the palace. The gates had been thrown open for the admission of our camels and baggage into the court; with cautious steps I advanced, and turning to the right, entered a spacious hall. The moon, which shone full in at the windows, discovered a black marble staircase, which I judged must lead to the room whence I had seen the lady. When I had ascended a few stairs, the wind which had arisen, and echoed in hoarse murmurs through
the

the long colonades, caused me to halt ; a tremor seized ; a moment's reflection shewed me the mischief that might attend the gratification of my unwarrantable curiosity. I endeavoured at one time to retire, then stopped and listened ;—the sounds died away ;—my spirits in some degree revived, and I resolved to proceed. When I had gained the top of the stairs, all was silence and darkness : I was upon the point of returning to the hall, just as the glimmering of the moon through a half opened door, induced me to enter the room, which I imagined must be the one in which the phantom had appeared. I advanced to the window, which was open, and to my mortification discovered, that the view, looking through a short avenue of trees, terminated in a broad expanse of water. Again I heard distant sounds.—Again the wind arose ; a noise like the grating
of

of hinges assailed my ears. Alarmed and terrified, I sprung forward, to regain the stairs, when a blast, which shook the whole dome, shut the door with such violence, that all the efforts of my strength, aided by my despair, were insufficient to enable me to open it. In vain I endeavoured, 'till exhausted by fatigue, I sunk upon the ground in speechless agony.

Here Ismael arose, and told Amurath, that as the clouds of the evening began to hang upon the mountain forests, he wished, while there was light enough remaining, to discover the situation of the vessels he had seen in the morning. The father and daughters thanking him for his attention, waited with impatience his return to the cavern,

CHAP. V.

SLOW and cautious, the Hermit ascended to his observatory: the ships still lay in the same situation, and several people appeared upon the shore. Tents were pitched on a small plain near the edge of the cliff; through the trees that sheltered them behind, smoke in spiral volumes arose, and in a short time many persons came from the tents.

The curiosity of Ismael was excited, and he approached as near as he could, without risk of discovery. They seemed

ed in earnest conversation, frequently pointing to the mountain, and then towards the sea. A man of a majestic appearance joined them, as they walked nearer the shore, whither the Hermit now turned his eyes, and beheld several of the men he had at first discovered, carrying chests, bales, and other packages, which he imagined were part of the wreck. At some distance a more melancholy spectacle attracted his attention, for he observed other persons under the direction of the man whom he supposed their chief, intering in the sand, with as much decency as their circumstances would admit, several bodies that had floated ashore.

While Ismael was contemplating, with internal satisfaction, the charitable office in which the strangers were engaged, the shades of night fell upon them; the cliff, the mountain and sea, were

were envelop'd in darkness; the plain only was illuminated by a stream of light from a fire in the grove, which had now the effect of a cavern. Several figures were increasing the flame, which discovered the foremost tent, and spread its rays upon the rocks, trees and sands in the back ground. As he was ascending by the well-known path, he heard the sound of voices much nearer him, than the persons he had discerned below; but as he could not distinguish the words, it only caused him to quicken his pace, and he arrived at the cavern undiscovered.

In the morning he recounted to Amurath, more fully than fatigue would suffer him at the time, the events of the preceding evening. When the latter had pondered some time upon the intelligence, the suspicion of pursuit,

suit, which had hung upon his mind, seemed to subside.

“Perhaps,” said he, “some strangers, tempest-driven, though not so wretched from the loss of their vessel and friends, as ourselves, may have sought a harbour in the mouth of the river; in that case, it would be better we discovered our situation, as from their humanity, there is little doubt but that they would restore what part of our property they may have saved from the rage of the ocean; and perhaps furnish us with a passage to the place of our destination.”

The Hermit acquiesced with Amurath, but was of opinion, from what he had observed of the situation of the ships, that they could not very speedily quit the coast, therefore, he proposed that they should, for a short time,
watch

watch the motions of the strangers, and take their measures accordingly.

Scarcely had he concluded the last sentence, ere Galatie entered, followed by her sister, seemingly in great agitation. Their father was alarmed. The Hermit anxiously inquired the cause of their emotion. Anime replied, that charmed with the beauty of the cascade, and surrounding scenery, they had wandered through the cavern, and were enjoying the morning breeze on the plain, when a rustling among the trees alarmed them : a small bird, pursued by an eagle, which their fears represented as of immense magnitude, drop'd from a tree, and fled for shelter to the bosom of Galatie ; she clasp'd the little flutterer with great tenderness to her heart, and in her turn, with Anime, sought refuge in the cavern, their fears suggesting to them that they would
become

become objects of pursuit to the eagle. Galatie produced the bird, which scarcely trembled more than its protectress. who holding the fugitive to her lovely lips, observed, that the danger she had incurred, vanish'd, and was lost in the pleasing reflection, that she had been the means of shielding and preserving a defenceless innocent.

“ Happy am I, my daughter,” said Ismael, “ to applaud your sentiments.—Pleased am I to find that compassion, which before I quitted the world, I thought commerce had, in a great degree, banished, hath again visited the Indian shores. While men, desperate in contending for gain, war upon mankind, let beasts, rapacious from hunger, prey upon defenceless quadrupeds! let the marine, the reptile and insect creation, directed by instinct, become food to each other! but

but may the Angel of Mercy pour upon the hearts of the female sex, mildness and benignity, that by their softness and gentle virtues, they may correct the sternness of masculine ferocity, and form the minds of the rising generation to the practice of compassion and benevolence !”

A cage formed of twigs by the hand of Ismael, was presented to Galatie, and her favourite, though offered his liberty, seeming to prefer residing under her protection, she hung him near the entrance of the cavern:—and now an opportunity of resuming his story offering itself to Amurath, he prepared to gratify the curiosity of the Hermit, in the following words.

CHAP. VI.

Continuation of the History of Amurath.

HOW long I continued in the stupor with which I was seized, after I had in vain endeavoured to extricate myself from the room in which I was accidentally confined, it is impossible to say. When I had in some measure recovered my senses, the sun beams darting through the windows, discovered that I was in a large chamber, which overlooked a garden; I again essay'd to force the door, but without success.

success. Frantic with rage, I drew my cimetar, and tried to hack it in a part I thought the most vulnerable: but, scarce had I given three strokes, before the cimetar flew to pieces; this completed my distress; I burst into a flood of tears, and again sunk upon the floor.

When my agitation had a little subsided, as I lay contemplating the opposite wall, I thought I discern'd, by the light through crevices, the form of a door. My cimetar, though broken, assisted me, and after several efforts, the partition gave way, and I gained a passage into a room which looked to the court, from which I had ascended the fatal stairs. My joy at finding the way open was much abated, by discovering that Koufrou, with his camels and slaves, had left the place. I flew to the spot on which his tent had been

VOL. I. D pitched,

pitched, and found a basket, with dried fruit, bread, and other necessaries, also at the bottom of it a letter, which contained these words.

“ Whatever may be the circumstance that may have caused Amurath to leave his tent at the dead of night, it is inexplicable to his master. After many hours search, urgent affairs obliges him to pursue his journey. If Amurath is not a willing fugitive, and should ever find this, he will be again received; but if, as his conduct seems to suggest, the youth wishes for his liberty, it is freely given, with prayers that he may be more prosperous and happy than when under the guidance and protection of

KOUSROU.”

This

This letter, which I wetted with my tears, caused the tenderest sensations in my mind, and increased my reverence for the benevolent Koufrou, and my regret at the appearance of ingratitude my imprudent curiosity must have had in the eyes of my beloved master. Pierced to the soul by these reflections, my first emotions were a determination to follow; inform him of the extent of my crime, and entreat his forgiveness. This resolution, in some degree, alleviated my sorrow; I sat down on a broken column, and was eating part of the provision which his humanity had induced him to leave, and which a long fast had rendered peculiarly grateful, when the female form, which I guessed had caused my alarm in the night, and my present desolate situation, appeared at the gate, crossed the walk, and entered the building on the opposite side, through a

D 2

marble

marble arch. Though I had suffered so much from an indulgence of my curiosity, a desire to trace the steps of the phantom, for which I could not account, took possession of my mind. Several times I advanced and retreated; at length my wish to follow her, overcame my fears of personal danger, though I resolved, if possible, to avoid the inconvenience of the preceding night, and to venture into no situation, from which I had not a probability of escaping

In consequence of this resolution, I crossed the court, and entered that part of the building, which I found to be a piazza, that led to the garden. The gates were wide open, and by the disorder and uncultivation that reigned in it, that it had been neglected for a long period, might easily be discovered. The trees had shot forth their
branches

branches into all the variety of spontaneous wildness: the unpruned vines trailed upon the ground, and the walks, encumbered with grass and weeds, were scarcely to be distinguished from the parterres. The number of alleys which centered in the entrance from the piazza, occasioned me to stop some moments, in order to determine which I should pursue. No trace of human or animal footsteps had marked the verdure, and in the entangled mazes of the labyrinth before me, the object of my search seemed effectually shrouded from my sight. Attracted, at last, by a building at the end of the longest vista, with cautious steps I ventured down it, and had occasion frequently to stop, to admire the vegetable ruins on either side. Here an immense trunk, shivered by some storm, though not entirely disjointed, with its top inverted, and branches spread upon the

D 3 ground;

ground, over-run with weeds and clinging plants, seemed a mount:—flowers and fruit, in the utmost profusion, diffused their sweets around; the view was terminated by a ruined pagod, upon the bank of a large piece of water. As I stood upon a heap of stones, considering the building immersed in trees, the lake, the woods, and the rising of the opposite shore, 'till the distant hills faded away, in tints of blue and purple, which lost themselves in the horizon, a noise caused me to turn my eyes to the further angle of the pagod, where, with pleasure and surprise, I beheld, seated upon a broken pedestal, the female who had been the object of my search. As she seemed to be with deep attention musing upon a paper, I had, when my perturbation had in some degree subsided, an opportunity of contemplating her charms: her head was reclined upon her

her hand; her hair of bright chesnut, confined only by a tiara of blue, flow'd in profusion upon her shoulders; a veil and simple drapery of white muslin tied round the waist, with an azure girdle, and sandals of the same colour, completed her dress. I approached her as the divinity that presided over the groves, and the rustling of the leaves causing her to turn, our surprise was mutual; the first emotions of her's was fear; and of mine admiration. She instantly retreated; but, as her agitation was great, she could only move a few steps, before she was forced to lean against a tree for support, when, with one arm she embraced a cypress, I thought I had never seen so interesting an object: the symmetry of her form and beauty of her face, which the transparency of her veil discovered, made an impression upon my heart, which even at this hour I remember with rapture.

The violence of her tremour I attempted to subdue, by addressing her in the gentlest accents; briefly relating my story, particularly the adventures of the preceding night, and the impulse that had led me to pursue her steps into the garden. When I had ended, fear gave place to concern.

She entreated me to leave the place, and to return to the benevolent Koufrou. "The day," she continued, "is too far spent, for you to begin a journey, through paths so intricate, so slenderly provided for the undertaking as you appear to be. For this night, humanity urges me to offer you food and shelter, but it must be upon the express condition of your departure with the earliest dawn of the morning: if you intend to comply with my injunctions, follow me." Saying this, she waved her hand; and, struck with
silent

silent awe, I traced the track of her footsteps through groves, where the lengthened shade of the trees, and faint gleams of light upon the topmost, and wide extended branches, indicated the approach of evening. The feathered inhabitants of the woods flew in clusters to their downy nests; their melodious notes, in fainter and fainter warblings, died upon the ear, and a solemn and awful stillness reigned around.

When we approached the colonade, footsteps resounded upon the pavement, and in a few minutes another female entered, who, with surprise and anxiety, inquired of Erminia, which I found was the name of my protectress, the cause of her stay, and of my appearance? Erminia explained both, and then the elder of the ladies summoning two male slaves, to whom she gave some orders, directed me to follow her.

We ascended a flight of stairs in the wing of the building opposite to that which I had entered the night before.

Amurath was proceeding in his story, when the whole group were alarmed by the sound of voices near the mouth of the cavern; the father and daughters retreated to its inmost recesses, while Ismael ventured forth, to discover whence the sounds proceeded. He had not advanced many steps, before he was surrounded by several persons, who, struck with his venerable figure, approached him with great respect. A man of majestic appearance, dressed in the Turkish habit, thus accosted him.

“ Think not, most reverend sage, that either myself or friends, explore the wild recesses of Caucasus, with a view to disturb your sacred solitude.

Tempest-

Tempest-driven to the shores beneath, and obliged to stay 'till our vessels are refitted, we have, impelled by curiosity, ascended to several parts of this immense chain of mountains. Yet though curiosity was one motive with us for penetrating into these woods and wilds, we have another, and, I flatter myself, a better. When we entered the harbour, we were grieved to observe, by the marks of a recent wreck, that the storm from which we have fortunately escaped, had been fatal to one or more vessels. As the winds abated, we hoped some fugitives, saved from the rage of the sea, might have found shelter in the woods and caverns around. To discover and assist them, as soon as we had collected our crew, we made a search, and endeavoured, by torches and trumpets, to inform the wanderers, if such there were, that the arms of Asgar, and his friends, were

open to succour companions in distress. If haply you know of any such, gladly shall we restore to them abundance of effects, which the industry of my men has saved, and willingly conduct them to a port, whence they may procure a passage to the place of their destination."

The name of Asgar, the Hermit recollected, had been repeated by Amurath in the hour of his emotion, with some asperity, as the cause of his distress. Could he think of violating the trust reposed in him, and deliver him up to one whom he supposed his enemy?—On the contrary, could he, however stimulated by friendship, act in open defiance to the precepts which the Angel of Truth had imprinted upon his heart?—From duplicity or perfidy he was saved by the appearance of another party, who descended from a higher

higher part of the mountain, and whispering the chief, they all departed with precipitation. The astonished Ismael regained the cavern, to communicate this intelligence to Amurath and his daughters. In vain he sought them; he called, and his voice echoed through the labyrinths of the mountain; the caves, the plain, the woods, were all explor'd in vain. Tired with his search, he flung himself upon his couch, and the evening breeze wafted his sighs through the hollow vaults around him.

CHAP. VII.

IN the dark and silent hour of night, anxiety for his friends banished sleep from

from the eye-lids of Ismael. As he extended himself upon his bed, ruminating upon the events of the day, hoarse murmurs assailed his ears; he started: a gleam of light struck upon the crystalline sides and sparry roof of the cavern, and diffused brilliancy around. In a vest of russet, over which hung a robe of white, appeared the Genius of the mountain; his majestic form seemed bending beneath the weight of years: a wreath of cypress encircled his head, the top of which was crown'd with snow, and strings of icicles hung upon his hoary hair, and beard, that descended below his girdle: in one hand he bore the rugged branch of a tree, upon which he frequently lean'd for support, the other he wav'd, and commanded the Hermit to follow him.

Silent

Silent and slow, they passed through the mazes of the caverns, till they arrived at a cascade, which falling over rocks, rush'd with impetuosity along. On the banks of the stream they proceeded, till a retreat presented itself to their view; where the rocks, fashioned by the hand of nature, into the form of a dwelling, were sheltered and overhung by trees, which twin'd their fantastic boughs over the edge of the precipice, that look'd toward a beautiful plain. The sun arose; the plants and flowers glow'd with all the variety of vivid colours: light clouds which floated in the atmosphere, were broken by the hills, and lost themselves in a purple haze, while the more distant sides of the woods, mountains and cliffs, formed broad masses of shadow; relieved on the prominent parts by a gleam of vermillion tinted light through the different breaks, they spread their

reflection to the river, till the landscape became fainter and fainter, and at length was blended with the varied colouring of the sky.

Arrived at this beautiful spot, the Genius, turning to the Hermit, said, "However intricate the ways of Providence may seem; though for a time the righteous may be bow'd down by misfortunes, yet, in the end they will find the arm of Omnipotence extended to raise them; the compassionate and just will ever be protected. Your friends are safe, and as far as my power extends, will continue so; but I must add, that their security, in a great measure, depends upon their residing in the bosom of the mountain, and trusting the guidance of their conduct to the sage Ismael."

At

At this the Genius disappeared, while the Hermit entered the retreat, and beheld, with pleasure, Amurath and his daughters, for whom a more than common interest had taken possession of his mind. When the agitation, occasioned by their meeting, had subsided, and they had partook of a repast, which the palm trees around, and the plain abounding in fruits, luxuriously supplied, the Hermit said,

“ Whatever the reason may be, that may impel Asgar to seek the captivity of Amurath, fruitless surely will be his attempt to discover this asylum, situated as it is in the midst of rocks, and inaccessible but through the narrow strait by which you descended; therefore the fears of Galatie and Anime may vanish; here they will remain in security, while their father and myself ascend, occasionally, to observe the motions

motions of their enemies: let me then seize the present peaceful moment, to entreat my friend to resume the story of his life, which I wait impatiently to hear."

CHAP. VIII.

The History of Amurath continued.

I WAS conducted by the ladies through several rooms, most of which, though of large dimensions, and elegant architecture, were unfurnished, to one, the walls of which were adorned with marble of different colours, and the mouldings and ceiling embellished with fret-work, and grotesque ornaments;
from

from the center of the dome hung a crystal lamp, and in four niches, upon alabaster pedestals, stood china vases, full of the most beautiful and odoriferous plants and flowers; an elegant desert of fruit, and other viands, was placed upon the table, when the eldest of the ladies turning to me, with a countenance in which beauty and benignity were blended, invited me to partake of their repast. She spoke, alas, to the deaf! the lovely Erminia had thrown aside her veil, and her beautiful features attracted the whole of my attention. "Years of possession have not obliterated the remembrance of the rapture of that moment!—months of separation have not erased from my mind the impression which the charms and virtues of the mother of Galatie and Anime had made on it."

In

In the course of the evening's conversation, Louisa, her mother, introduced her history in the following words.

“ I was born at New Cochin, of Portuguese parents, and, according to the custom of that country, married very young to a European officer. We lived some time in the place of my nativity, although the invasion and conquest of the settlement by the Dutch, rendered my husband, who had taken an active part in the defence of it, obnoxious to our new masters; and he was, notwithstanding his entering in their service, treated with a harshness and suspicion, which at last determined him to quit the country. For this purpose, soon after the birth of Erminia, he converted all his effects into jewels and money, and we were upon the point of setting out, when we were detained

detained by an order from government, and under pretence of our holding improper correspondence, my husband was thrown into prison, and myself placed in the house, and under the inspection of an officer of the state.

“ The law’s delay is proverbial:—but slow as judicial proceedings are in Europe, they are rapidity itself to oriental jurisprudence. Two years elapsed before the first examination took place;—the second was, at the distance of twelve months:—three years more were consumed in sending to Holland for advice; and as nothing appeared to criminate my husband, after waiting another year, paying almost the whole remains of our fortune as a fine, and hearing a long panegyric on the mildness of Asiatic legislation, we were permitted to depart.

“ Strip’d

“ Strip’d of the means of existence, and turned into the world, you will imagine that we suffered a variety of hardships :—at length my husband entered into the service of the Raja Hapi, who was then the possessor of this palace, and served under him for many years, in the forces of the Great Mogul. When an unfortunate revolution at Delhi drove our patron into this retirement, we followed him, sooth’d his sorrows; and though the malignity of his enemies still pursued him, continued with him till his death. His remains rest with the dust of the founder, who was, like him, banish’d from the court, in the magnificent Mausoleum adjoining. He, having been divested of the greatest part of his other possessions, as a token of gratitude to us, for long attachment, bequeathed this wing of the edifice for our residence; the rest was occupied by his family: they have,
since

since that time, been ordered to court, through the influence of the faction who pursued the Raja, and who, not content to bury their revenge in his grave, have turn'd their malignity against his unfortunate relations. As the long connexion between my husband and the Raja Hapi was known, he was also called upon to answer charges, which that circumstance had caused to be brought against him. Several months have elapsed since his departure, and as time rolls on, our anxiety increases, so that nothing but dread of the consequences of the undertaking, should we be discovered on our arrival, has hindered us from travelling to Delhi, in search of a husband and a parent."

The tears of Erminia corresponded with the emotions of Louisa; my feelings were strongly excited; love, pity, sensibility,

sensibility, all the softer passions, were engaged in bewailing their misfortunes. In an instant I formed a resolution, to endeavour to alleviate them, by taking a journey to court, in order to learn the situation of the family of the Raja, and particularly that of Carloman, the father of Erminia.

Though I formed this plan upon the impulse of the moment, yet, fearful of being thought too abrupt, I concealed it that evening; but so much had my general offers of service, and the interest I took in their affairs, gained upon both the mother and daughter, that the elder lady proposed I should stay a few days, and offered me all the assistance in her power, to enable me to prosecute my journey to the mansion of the benevolent Koufrou. I returned her thanks with the most lively sensations of gratitude, though nothing was further from
my

my intention, than to profit by her bounty. My regard for my master was lost in the vortex of a superior passion; and the lovely form of Erminia, was a vision that seemed to flit before my eyes through the night.

In the enchanting delirium which her presence produced, a month seemed but as a moment.

No news, during this period, was heard from Carloman; the anxiety of Louisa, and her fair daughter, hourly increased; when, one afternoon, sitting with the latter, upon the steps of an obelisk, under the shade of a cypress tree; and observing her emotion, as the conversation turned upon the misfortunes of her father, I said, "Lovely Erminia, pardon the interference which a desire to repress the sorrows of your parent and yourself, has, on my part,

VOL. I. E excited,

excited, and listen to a design which I formed the instant I heard your story.— It was justly said by Louisa, that besides the difficulty and danger attendant upon females in so long a journey, if the cause for which you visited the capital was suspected; and how could it be concealed? the end of your toil would be frustrated.—For myself, inured to hardship, unknown, unattended, I shall easily pass without observation. I will therefore undertake to procure an account of your father, and the Raja's family; and the satisfaction it will give me to be in a small degree useful to ladies whom I so much esteem, will amply compensate any trifling inconvenience attendant upon the search.”

A flash of joy shone through the tears that suffused her lovely eyes; but the next moment she expressed her fear of the dangers I might incur, in travelling

velling through unknown and desert countries, and liable to meet with hordes of wandering banditti. Pleased with her anxiety, which I interpreted in my favour, upon being joined by Louisa, I proposed the same to her: and, as the distressed mind is ready to catch at the most transient gleam of hope, my services were accepted; so being furnished with letters and money, I set out on horseback for the capital of the Mogul empire.

Through roads shaded by plantations of mulberry, palm, and cypress trees; over sandy plains, strewn with red stones, whose only vegetation was the production of large thistles; thro' delapidated towns and forsaken villages; after encountering many difficulties, a more smiling and fertile country again appeared, and I journeyed on, till at length I arrived at the

centre of Indostan, and in due time entered Delhi, which was then the residence of the court.

I lodged at a caravansary in the suburbs, and used daily to repair to the new town, built by Chagean Abad, to the Bezeftain and the Baths; but could not procure that intelligence which was the object of my journey: indeed, I was obliged to make my inquiries with great circumspection, to avoid the jealousy of a government, which I understood from my landlord, (for I had now left the caravansary,) had spies and informers every where.

One day, when I had, in conversation upon public affairs, in a house where lemonade, and other cooling liquors were sold, asked some indirect questions, with a view to lead the discourse to the subject of the family of the
Raja,

Raja, an old man, whom I had before frequently seen in the same place, where he always observed a profound silence, came up to me, and regarding me with a steady countenance, said, "Son, follow me," and immediately went out of the shop.

This address, though it escaped the notice of all present, threw me into a violent palpitation; the ideas of informers, prisons, torture, rush'd at once into my mind, and almost determined me instantly to leave the city. The next moment, however, conscious rectitude, natural courage, and perhaps curiosity, prompted me to follow the old man, which I did directly, and found him waiting for me in the Bazar. Silent and slow, we walked onward, through many streets and avenues, until we came to a plain, which brought us to the banks of the river Genna.

Here the Hermit interrupted Amurath, and said, "However great may be my desire to hear the remainder of your adventures, I think it will be necessary to suspend it for the present, in order to set out for the cavern, and endeavour to learn the situation of Asgar and the ships. They accordingly took leave of Galatie and Anime, after recommending them to the protection of heaven, and proceeded upon their expedition.

CHAP. IX.

ISMAEL and his companion ascended through the winding ways, and with much difficulty arrived at the mouth of
the

the cavern; but great was their surprise and astonishment, to discover, in that place, a variety of packages, which Amurath knew must have been saved from the wreck of his vessel.

While he was removing them, the Hermit sallied forth to the precipice, whence he observed, that several persons were employed in refitting the ships; and from the frequent communication between them, and those in the tents, he judged that they were preparing to sail.

The declining sun warned him to return to his friend, and they proceeded to the retreat, loaded with bundles, which contained cloaths and other necessaries, extremely acceptable to Galatie and Anime. The next morning they renewed their toil, and by degrees

all the effects were deposited in the retreat.

The bird which has been already mentioned, notwithstanding the terror in which the daughters of Amurath, under the conduct of the genius of the mountain, had flown to their present asylum, had been the companion of Galatie: it fed from her hand, reposed on her bosom, and seemed attached to her by a gratitude, which denoted superior intelligence.

As the family were now in some degree composed, and seemed secure in their present situation, the Hermit regulated their different employments. The first rays of the morning awakened them to their devotions; the fore part of the day was dedicated to the procuring and preparing sustenance; the afternoon to innocent amusement, and the

the evening breeze wafted to heaven
the orisons of Ismael and Amurath,
with the hymns of Galatie and Anime.

In the course of their afternoon's leisure, which the plan of the Hermit afforded, he took the first opportunity to request from Amurath a resumption of his story.

The History of Amurath concluded.

When we arrived on the banks of the river, the old man, turning to me, said, " Son, I have often remarked an anxiety in you, to be informed of the transactions of the court, with a view to learn the fate of some friends or relations, for whom you interest yourself. Your inexperience renders you insensible to the personal dangers that may occur, under a government obliged to

have recourse to jealousy and activity, in order to repress the machinations of the rebellious Rajas and Omrahs.— Though now retired from public life, I have been long in the great world: place, therefore, confidence in me; inform me of your designs, and if there is no impropriety in them, depend upon my advice and assistance.”

Struck with the address of the sage, and the benignity of his aspect, after a few minutes consideration, I discovered to him my business. When I mentioned the fate of the Raja Hapi, and his relatives, his countenance underwent several changes, and his action expressed great emotion. In return for my confidence he informed me, that the Raja was the friend of his youth, his companion in arms, and his colleague in administration. He sympathized with me, when I dwelt on the
distress

distress and downfall of the family, and lamented the misfortunes of Carloman; and although he smiled at the ardour with which I spoke of the beauty and virtues of his daughter, he admired the attachment of the father to the relatives of his benefactor.

“Meet me,” said he, “in this place to-morrow; and notwithstanding it be an affair which requires some nicety in the management, I will endeavour to procure you intelligence concerning him.”

We parted, and I counted the minutes, till the time appointed by the benevolent old man, arrived. Slow he approached; a cloud sat upon his brow; the sorrow of his countenance communicated the most distressful sensations to my heart, and it was some minutes before I could say, “You

have either been unsuccessful, or what is still worse, have dismal tidings to communicate."

"Alas!" replied the sage, "had I only been unsuccessful, easy would it have been to have renewed the application: my intelligence is certain and fatal. The family of the Raja are condemned to perpetual imprisonment, in a castle on the western extremity of the Mogul dominions."—"But Carlo-man?" said I, with eagerness.—"Worn with anxiety and imprisonment, two moons since," replied the sage, "he ended his unfortunate life!"

"Ah Louisa! Erminia!" said I, "What consolation shall I be able to give ye? How shall I return to inform you of this dreadful event? Will you not detest your messenger? Will you not—" Here my emotion became

came too strong for utterance, and the benevolent Abudah was obliged to support me 'till we arrived at his house, which was near the place where we held this conversation.

A fever was the consequence of my anxiety and grief, and for ten days, the angel of death hovered over the couch of Amurath.

When I was sufficiently recovered to bear the fatigue of the journey, I left the capital. Abudah shewed great regret at parting with me ; he ejaculated prayers for my protection, and loaded me with his bounty. The melancholy state of my mind, and weakness of my body, increased the toil of travelling ; and, as I drew near to the banks of the Ganges, my distress at returning to the ladies with such sorrowful tidings, redoubled. Desponding, pale, and emaciated,

ciated, I arrived at last; but how shall I relate the effect of the fatal news upon the lovely Erminia, and her mother?—When the first gush of passion was over, they had hope that I might have been deceived or misinformed by Abudah: alas! that hope was but of short duration; too dreadfully was the truth confirmed in a few days, by the arrival of an officer from court, at the head of a large party of Rasputs, who commanded us to leave the palace, of which they took immediate possession. They did not seize the jewels and money of the ladies, nor what I had remaining of the bounty of Abudah; but suffered us also to load some horses with cloaths, and other effects. Having done this, we took a melancholy leave of a place, to which, for different reasons, we each had a strong attachment; and, attended by three slaves, without
any

any determination as to our future prospects or residence, we journeyed on.

Slow we were obliged to proceed, in consequence of the ill health of Louisa; her delicate frame, no longer able to resist the repeated shocks of anguish and misfortune with which it had been assailed, seemed fast sinking under a weight of woe. A fever oppressed her spirits, and although Erminia and myself used our utmost endeavours to soothe and alleviate her grief, they were attended with no success. The fatigue we encountered in travelling over a parched and sandy desert, overcame her, and about sun set on the fifth day, she fainted in my arms. Fortunately we were on the edge of the plain; and while the greatest confusion reigned among us, we were joined by a Dervise, who, pitying the situation of Louisa, made a signal for
some

some of his brethren that were in sight, to approach. With their assistance she was conveyed to their convent, which was at no great distance, where, after lingering some time, and perceiving that her end drew near, she expressed her gratitude to me in the most fervent terms her weakness would allow, for the zeal and attachment I had manifested in her service.

“Amurath,” said she, “I leave Erminia young and innocent, to the anxieties and distresses of a world, which, but for that consideration, I should quit with pleasure!—Let the last link of the chain by which I am held to this earth, when broken from me, be united to you!—Let her find in you a protector, a friend, a husband: and dear Erminia, on whom I have long observed, that the merit of Amurath has made an impression, consider
him,

him, in future, as the person to whom that fervent love, and ready obedience, which you have ever paid your parents, must be directed!—May the current of your lives glide smoother than that of your mother's! Oh, may the darts of destiny, which now pierce my heart, be warded from the bosom of my child! she then made a sign for me to withdraw, and in a short time after, expired in the arms of her beloved daughter.

After paying the last mournful duties to the memory of Louisa, we travelled on to the English settlements, and upon our arrival at Calcutta, Erminia, according to the injunctions of her mother, became my wife. Turning our jewels into money, we proceeded to Ormus, where I engaged in merchandize. In the course of three years after our marriage, Galatie and Anime were

were born; and to add to my felicity, fortune seemed to smile upon all my mercantile undertakings.

Having, through the instructions of Koufrou, become acquainted with the manufacture of silk, I engaged largely in that branch of commerce, not only by means of the Persian gulf, to India and Arabia, but also to Turkey and Europe. Every year my riches increased, as did my love for Erminia, and my children, whom I placed at a magnificent villa which I had purchased in the country, and to which I retired, whenever the course of business afforded leisure for that enjoyment.

Sixteen years of happiness had passed, when returning one evening from a journey, great was my surprise to find my family in the utmost confusion, but more, to learn that it had been
occasioned

occasioned by my daughters having, while walking in the garden, been carried off by some armed ruffians, who, while forcing them along, were, in their turn, attacked by another band, that rescued and delivered them safe into their mother's protection.

Irritated almost to madness, at this outrage, I immediately set inquiries on foot, and learned, that two neighbouring chiefs, Omar and Afsar, were the leaders of the band of ravishers, and who, inflamed by the beauty of my daughters, and enraged at their disappointment, had publickly vowed vengeance upon the house of Amurath: a vow which they have carried into execution, by every means which power and passion could suggest. Spies were set to watch my dealings;—an embargo laid upon my ships;—my effects plundered;—and to fill up the measure
of

of my woe, Erminia, who for some time had been oppressed with melancholy, which I attributed to her feelings for the situation of our affairs, disappeared.

Every inquiry was made, and every means used, to discover the place of her concealment, but without effect. In the first emotions of my rage, I determined to take personal vengeance of the chiefs, whom I deemed the cause of my misfortunes. Then I resolved to lay my sorrows at the foot of the Persian throne ; but, when my passion subsided, I considered that Amurath, the merchant, was too weak to resist the power of the revengeful Omrahs. I therefore prepared for flight. I conveyed my daughters, and portable effects, on board a Turkish bark that lay in the harbour, intending, from the port to which she was destined, to take
shipping

shipping for Europe, where I had before remitted part of my fortune.

The sequel you are partly acquainted with; after a prosperous voyage of a few days, we were shipwrecked near the base of this mountain. When the vessel struck, by what means I reached the shore, I know not. On the recovery of my senses, you will conceive, and indeed have in part witnessed, the poignant emotions of my sorrow for my daughters, whom I supposed to have perished.

“ We were lifted on board a small boat,” said Galatie, “ by two persons, who landed us in safety through the rage of contending elements, and conducted us to the place where Ismael found us.”

“ Blessed,

“Blessed, for ever blessed,” said Amurath, “be those persons perhaps the guardian angels of my virtuous children saved them at that dreadful moment!”

“Cherish that thought,” replied the Hermit, “let it influence your future lives, and daily return thanks to the Omnipotent being, who hath preserved you through such imminent dangers.”

“We shall,” continued Amurath, “never lose sight of the admonition of the sage Ismael, for, next to the Almighty, my thanks are due to him, who found me wandering up the rugged side of the mountain, oppressed with sorrow, on the brink of despair; who poured the balm of comfort into the wounded heart of Amurath; who made the joy of a parent for the recovery

very of his offspring, flash from the eyes of the son of the unfortunate Selim Benducar!"

"Selim Benducar!" exclaimed the Hermit, as he embraced Amurath.

"Is it possible you can be the son of that Selim Benducar, who was for some time Alcade of Visapour?"

"That wretched man, and his daughters, stand before you!"

"Wonderful are the works of Providence," continued the Hermit, "the decrees of Heaven, though severe to our contracted understandings, are certainly just and merciful! the sinner Ismael stands here a proof of it, whose prayers have ascended to the thrones above, and to whom, in his declining days, an opportunity is given, to shelter from the rage of the seas, and the savage

vage brutality of mankind, the son and offspring of a long lost, long lamented, brother! may this happy hour be remembered to the latest period of my existence. When sorrow oppresses, let this meeting be recalled to my mind, and the idea will contribute to sooth the care, and diffuse a gleam of sunshine around the head of Ismael."

CHAP. X.

WHILE the Hermit, Amurath, and his daughters, were congratulating each other upon a meeting, which, though it was procured by unpropitious events, seemed productive of happiness to all parties, they were alarmed
by

by the report of a cannon, which rolled over their heads like a violent clap of thunder; then subsiding for a few moments, it rose again on the right; from thence reverberating among the caverns on the left, rebounded from rock to rock, and at length died upon the ear.

Galatie and Anime started at every echo, while surprise took possession of Ismael and his guest; as, from the loudness of the report, they imagined it must be nearer to the mountain than the ships could approach; and although from the intricacy of the ways through the cavern to the retreat, they had great reason to believe themselves perfectly secure, it was determined that the Hermit should endeavour to discover the cause of their alarm.

He set out for the precipice, and when, from that elevated situation, he surveyed the sea, found, as he had conjectured, that the ships were removed from their former station, and had drawn nearer to the mountain. While he stood anxiously examining them, a noise alarmed him, and turning, he discovered that he was surrounded by armed men; the leader of whom addressed him in these words.

“ No harm is intended to the reverent sage of the mountain, nor to any one under his protection: the Persian chiefs, Omar and Asgar, pitying the sufferings of Amurath and his daughters, wait, in hopes of conveying him back to his dwelling, to which place, many reasons combine to urge him to return.—If you will descend with me into the plain, you will learn from their own mouths, that their intentions are benevolent

benevolent toward Amurath, and innocent with respect to the young ladies."

"Can that be the case," said Ismael, "when even their last retreat in the deep caverns of Caucasus, is invaded?—when bands of armed men are employed, and artillery drawn forth, to harass and disturb the repose of unoffending virgins, and to force them from their natural protector!"

"Strangely are you mistaken," replied the chief, "though we are upon the point of sailing, and there is an absolute necessity for the Omrahs to have an interview with Amurath, the cannon was not fired by the vessel that lay nearest the mountain, with any design to disturb him, but merely as a signal that she was ready: the amazing echo and reverberation, was accidental, and

alarmed even the mariners, who had wantonly pointed the piece at the aperture of one of the caverns on the side of the cliff; though the effect it has produced, is what we could have wished in bringing you to this place, you will therefore go with us to the camp, and receive from the mouths of Omar and Asgar, assurance of favour and protection on the part of Amurath and his daughters."

Reluctant as the sage Ismael was to appear before the chiefs, resistance, in his situation, was impossible; he therefore descended with the party to the plain, though apprehensive that the fears of Amurath for his safety, might betray him into the hands of his enemies, he wished much to have informed him of what had happened.

Darkness

Darkness and silence pervaded the hemisphere, when, after a tedious march, they arrived at the camp. The chief informed Ismael, that it would be impossible to have any communication with Omar and Asgar that night. A small tent was prepared, some refreshment set before him, and in a short time he was left to his repose.

Slowly, and with leaden feet, the children of Somnus passed by the couch of Ismael; anxiety for the fate of Amurath and his daughters, had for some hours totally banished them, when weariness of body, and oppression of spirits, caused their return; they strewed narcotic plants over his head, and he sunk into their arms.

In that situation, to his mental eye, appeared again the genius of the mountain; he carried a horn in his hand,

which he sounded in the ears of the astonished Ismael. Roused by the noise, he started,

“Ungrateful mortal!” said the genius, “to doubt the protection which Heaven has promised to the innocent and virtuous! Wilt thou still continue to murmur and repine at the decrees of Providence?—Look back upon thy own life, and be taught, that the Omnipotent Being, who stretched forth his arm, and rescued thee when on the verge of eternity, in the moment of suicide!—Who has protected thee through a length of years, and restored to thee thy family, will continue to interpose and shelter them under the wings of his mercy, as long as they shall deserve it!”

The genius retired, and left the astonished Ismael in the greatest agitation.
While

While he was endeavouring to tranquillize his mind, the day broke, he left his tent, advanced to the plain, and prostrating himself before the throne of grace in silent adoration, peace again visited the mansions of his breast, and he waited with patience for a summons to the tent of Asgar.

PART THE SECOND.

CHAP. XI.

Of antres vast, and desarts wild,
Rough quarries, rocks and hills whose
heads touch heav'n
It was my hint to speak.

SHAKESPEARE.

LEAVING the Hermit, waiting
with calmness for an interview with the
Persian chiefs, let us turn our eyes to
the retreat, and behold Amurath and
his daughters a prey to the most cruel
uncertainty respecting his fate. With
terror

terror and dismay, they saw the sun decline, and listened to every sound that echoed through the recesses of the mountain. While some faint gleams of light remained, Amurath ventured as far as he durst among the labyrinths of the caverns, and called on the name of Ismael, alas, in vain! The evening was spent in conjectures upon his fate, and the night passed almost without repose. When they met in the morning, the sire informed his daughters, that the dread of some misfortune having befallen the benevolent Hermit, had determined him to ascend to the precipice in search of him, and even to proceed further, if he could not there be satisfied of the cause of his detention.

“ Perhaps,” said he, “ the old man has fallen into the hands of our enemies, or overcome with fatigue, or hurt by accident, is incapable of reach-

ing this place ; but, whatever may have happened, my duty and inclination obliges me to afford him relief, or attempt his emancipation. For you, my children, though probably my stay will not be long, I part from you with reluctance. On no account stir out of this cavern until my return: embosomed deep in the recesses of the mountain, I think I run but little hazard in leaving you for a short time unprotected, though no consideration upon earth, but anxiety for the fate of Ismael, should prevail with me to do it. May that power who makes innocence and virtue his care, suffer his guardian angel to hover over this retreat; and bless and protect my children !”

Neither the terror, nor the tears of Galatie and Anime, though his flowed as fast, and mingled with the last embrace

brace he gave them, could shake the determined purpose of Amurath. Reluctantly they saw him depart; their eyes pursued him across the plain, and when he was out of sight, they returned to the cavern.

In the gloom and solitude around, they could find nothing soothing to their minds, when they considered themselves alone and unprotected; but the moment called for an exertion of fortitude, and they endeavoured to reason themselves into some composure. Anime sat down with her book at the door of the retreat; and Galatie brought her bird, to whom she bemoaned the absence of Ismael, and her father. The cage was placed on a stone near the entrance, where, while she amused herself with turning the branches of a vine, and bending some flowering shrubs, 'till they met together in a small ar-

F 6

bour.

bour over the habitation of her favourite; the bird, as if conscious of her fondness, flew upon her hand, from thence to her shoulder, and nestled its little head against her cheek; he then hop'd upon the bush, where he rested a few minutes, and carrol'd a note, as if calling his mistress;—he then took a flight of a few yards upon the plain; Galatie, fearing she should lose him, followed; just as she extended her arms to catch him, again he flew; and in this manner, stopping 'till she had nearly caught him, and then taking flight, she was decoyed to the edge of the wood, before her anxiety to recover her fugitive, gave her time to reflect on the injunction of her father, or the situation of her sister. Alarmed at this idea, she resolved to abandon the pursuit, and return to the cavern with all possible speed; the bird still continued in sight; she called him once more

more in the softest voice, and holding out her arms, invited him to her, 'till startled by a rustling among the leaves, she step'd back, and found herself embraced by a youth. She gave a shriek, and endeavoured to retreat. When observing her emotion, though still retaining her trembling hand, he thus addressed her.

“ Whoever thou art, whether one of the mountain nymphs, or the dryades of the woods, stop thy flight for one moment!—or if a mortal, permit a stranger to inquire where you reside? for sure that lovely form is not accustomed to wander alone, and unprotected, among these rocks and precipices. I see that my sudden appearance has alarmed you; but, believe me, you have no real cause for your present emotion, for if, by chance, you have lost your way, entangled in the wild
labyrinths

labyrinths of the mountain, gladly shall I afford you all the protection in the power of one, who, compell'd by adverse fortune to seek an asylum near its base, hath endeavoured to penetrate the thick foliage on this western side, guided only by the impulse of curiosity."

During this speech, Galatie's fears in some degree subsided; she observed the stranger, who was dressed in the Persian military habit; over his vest hung a sash of crimson and gold, and to a girdle enriched with jewels, was suspended a superb cimeter; his turban was decorated with an ornament of cut steel and precious stones, which waved over his head like a feather; his countenance and figure seemed a perfect model of manly beauty; when casting a look of pleasure on the lovely female before him, he continued, "I
was,

was, after wandering for some hours, about to return, when your angelic form, engaged in eager pursuit, filled me with surprise and admiration, and made me stop your retreat, in a manner that I am fearful you still think alarming." Galatie, in reply, shortly informed him, that shipwreck'd on the adjacent coast, with her father and sister, they were sheltered in a cavern, and protected by the benevolence of a Hermit; but, she added, "some accident has, I fear, befallen the humane Ismael, perhaps my father too, whose orders to remain in the retreat, the flight of my bird has induced me to disobey."

While she was saying these words, she continued walking with a quick pace over the plain; the stranger, attracted by an irresistible impulse, kept at her side: every step his admiration increased.

increased. The gentle gale just blew the white drapery of the maid into a variety of picturesque folds, through the transparency of which the pink hue of her under dress appeared. A fillet confined one part of her Auburn locks, the other, which had escaped from bondage, fell in great luxuriance upon her shoulder, and half shaded her lovely bosom; one side of her head was adorned with a coronet of flowers, a primrose tinted girdle, and sandals of the same colour, completed her dress: but from dress, the beauty of Galatie could receive no additional ornament. The vermillion suffusion which her haste had excited upon her countenance, fled in a moment, when she entered the retreat, and found it abandoned by her sister: she burst into tears, and the name of Anime resounded through the plain.

When

When the stranger understood the nature of her grief, he generously offered to seek her father, her sister; to descend the mountain, and inquire the fate of the Hermit.

“ Wretched girl that I am !” said Galatie, “ I shall never see them more !”—The youth, whose sensibility caused him to share her sorrow, joined her cries; and while they repeated the name of Anime, they heard a voice. At first they thought it the echo of the cavern, but in a few minutes Anime appeared. Galatie flew to her. Wearied with the absence of her sister, whose elopement, such was her attention to her book, she did not immediately discover, she had wandered in search of her through the intricacies of the woods at the back of the retreat. The joy of Anime at the meeting, now gave place to the surprise, which the appearance

ance of the stranger excited. Galatie perceiving her amazement, informed her of their encounter in the wood, which she heard with attention and wonder; and though fearful of their father's displeasure, joined in inviting him to partake of a repast of such fruits as the retreat afforded.

CHAP. XII.

THE shadows of the oak, palm, and cypress that grew around, lengthened by the setting sun, extended themselves over the plain; the fears of the daughters of Amurath seemed every minute.

minute to increase ; the dread, the suspense, and anxiety that preyed upon their minds, were communicated to that of the stranger ; his compassion led him repeatedly to offer his service, to search for the objects of their attention ; they declined his offers, and faintly begged him to retire. But how could he leave them alone in that wild solitude, liable every moment to be alarmed, either by the real or visionary evils of the night ?—Of his stay in the retreat, what would their father ; what would the Hermit think ?—Yet every moment as they became more alarmed, his presence seemed the more necessary. The same reflections passed in the minds of the sisters, as at that time engaged the attention of the stranger ; therefore, as his interest for their safety, and reluctance to leave them increased, he offered to watch at the door of their retreat. With this proposal, they
would

would by no means comply, as their apprehensions of danger to themselves, were much less than their anxiety upon the account of their friends. After much discussion, it was determined that he should retire to the cavern which had been occasionally occupied by the Hermit, and which, from its vicinity to their abode, would give them all the advantages of his protection, should circumstances render it necessary.

The youth, in consequence of this arrangement, carrying with him mats and dried grass, made himself a bed. Galatie and her sister, after closing the door of the retreat, endeavoured to sooth their sorrows and apprehensions for the fate of their father, and the benevolent Ismael, in the arms of sleep; but alas! with little success on the part of the former, for after some efforts to attract the drowsy god, reflection,

upon.

upon the events of the day, upon their forlorn situation, and on the singularity of her meeting with the stranger, banished Morpheus entirely from her pillow.

Anime, nearly as restless, made her repeat the circumstances of that event, and observed, that in a situation so remote from all connexion with mankind, it was impossible, without some intimation, he could have discovered them; at the same time expressing her fears, that the ardour which glowed in his speech, when he offered his service; and the zeal that seemed to animate him in their cause, it was too probable, were but assumed to cover some insidious purpose.

Galatie warmly undertook his defence. "The mystery which clouds his appearance," said she, "will, doubtless

doubtless vanish, when our agitation sufficiently subsides, to question him upon that subject; the rest of your suspicions fly before the openness and benignity of his countenance: were his designs inimical to our virtue, or our peace, where was the necessity for those warm protestations of devotion to our service, or exertion for our defence? Why should he wish to seek our father? Would he not rather endeavour to persuade us to fly from him; to abandon this place, and seek that happiness which is to be found in polished nations, and elegant society?"

In this kind of discourse, the night was passed by the daughters of Amurath. On the part of the stranger it was spent in revolving upon the events of the day, particularly the meeting between him and Galatie. Her lovely form was constantly before his eyes,

and with his love, his fears for her safety increased. With the first ray of light that struck upon the romantic brow of the opposite cliff, he arose, and waited with anxious expectation near the door of the retreat for her appearance.

While he stood in this situation, as his eyes sometimes turned upon the residence of the sisters, and at other times upon the wood; he thought he discerned a movement between the trees on one side. The progress that the sun was making to enlighten the valley, was impeded by a mist, which in purple volumes slowly ascended around. The stranger advanced a few steps, to discover whether his idea, that persons were lurking in the wood, was real or imaginary, when a shrill and distinct whistle assailed his ears; by an involuntary impulse he drew his
cimetar,

cimeter, and the next moment found his hand arrested, and himself surrounded by a number of armed men; he tried to resist, but alas! resistance was vain! he was instantly disarmed, and informed by the chief, that his present safety, and future life, depended upon his yielding himself a prisoner. At that instant, Galatie and Anime, who had been alarmed by the noise, ran from the retreat, and were immediately captured. They shrieked, and called upon the names of Amurath and Ismael as their protectors.

“ At a considerable distance from this place, far out of the hearing of your cries,” said the chief, “ are the persons you address.”—“ Are they living?” exclaimed the sisters. “ That they are living, you will soon be convinced,” he replied, “ and as remote from danger as yourselves: my
business

business is, as soon as your present agitation ceases, to conduct you to them, as their anxiety has been greater than even your's, though perhaps not so well founded. I gathered from their lamentations, upon your forlorn condition, that they imagined you were alone; their fears, undoubtedly, would in a great degree have subsided, had they known, that in the most retired part of the mountain, you had found a protector. While he said this, he cast his eyes upon the stranger, who stood indignantly silent. Not so Galatie:" she exclaimed, "That their finding a protector, though an accident for which she could not account, was to be lamented, as it added another victim to those likely to suffer from their perfidy and rage! That whatever was the cause which rendered them objects of pursuit, there could be none for the detention of the stranger!"

VOL. I.

G

While

While the lovely maid said this with animation, her cheeks glowed with blushes, which the chief observing, shortly replied, "that with respect to his emancipation, it would be an object of future inquiry; at present they must prepare to leave the place." They accordingly ascended through the cavern, and pursued the rugged path down the side of the mountain: frequently they stopped to give the ladies time to recover their fatigue, so that the day was spent when they arrived at the camp.

With beating hearts the daughters of Amurath entered the tent that was prepared for them; and though soothed by the hope that they should be restored to their father, yet the bosom of Galatie felt a pang for the fate of the stranger, who had, whenever their eyes met, during the course of their
5 journey

journey down the mountain, by those organs expressed his concern for her sufferings, and who now was hurried to a distant part of the camp.

Anime lost her own fears, in her endeavours to sooth the double anxiety that seemed to prey upon the mind of her sister: hour after hour stole away, in almost breathless expectation of the appearance of Amurath and the Hermit. With the darkness of the night their emotions increased, and they had sat some time in that state of dejection, which the gloom and silence around produced, when a female slave entered the tent, bringing two tapers; some men followed with a collation, and soon after them the chief, who had led the band from the retreat. His manners seemed much softened, and he approached the ladies with great respect; while they, with equal anxiety and im-

G 2

patience,

patience, inquired after their father and the Hermit.

“ In the morning you will see them,” said the chief, “ my immediate business is from Omar and Afgar, to inform you that the persons you interest yourselves for are well, and request you to accept of every accommodation that this tent, and the present situation affords; assured of respect and protection, may you repose in peace; and be certain, that if there is any thing in our power which can contribute to your happiness and ease, you have only to speak your wishes, that they may be gratified !” The heart of Galatie at that moment told her, that to hear no danger was to be apprehended on the part of the stranger, would give her pleasure; but, fearful of the consequence of such an intimation, she only joined her sister in coolly thanking the chief, when he retired.

tired. Soon after he took his leave, the daughters of Amurath, fatigued both in body and mind, sought their couch, and at last sunk into repose, encircled in each other's arms.

CHAP. XIII.

DARKNESS and silence pervaded the camp of Asgar; the chiefs and their soldiers had retired for the night; not a breath of air, or the least noise, disturbed the solemnity of the scene, except the whispers that issued from the centinels, and the sighs of the Hermit Ismael, and his friend Amurath.

When the latter ascended to the precipice, in search of the former, though caution guided his steps, it could avail him but little. A band of armed men, detach'd from the camp, had lurk'd for some time among the rocks and trees; they observed him leave the cavern, and silently following him, he was surrounded while he was straining his eyes toward the plain. In his first emotions of grief upon his captivity, he unwarily discovered the place in which his daughters were secluded, and fervently demanded to be brought to them, but without effect; they hurried him away, and only said, that as they had by his means obtained a clue to the labyrinth, he would soon see his children again.

The Hermit, who had, on the preceding day, waited for a summons from the chief, when he had received it,
found

found him alone in his tent. The haughtiness of demeanor that marked the character of Asgar, vanished before the venerable figure of Ismael, who, with the courage which conscious innocence always inspires, demanded the reason that had induced the warriors of Persia to traverse seas and wilds so far distant from their native land? "A reason, he continued, it must certainly be of more weight and consequence, than that which appears, for surely the valiant chiefs, Omar and Asgar, would not besiege this part of the mountain, having no other motive than to disturb the latter days of an old man, who, buried for near forty years in the caverns of Caucasus, seeking to compensate for a youth of profligacy and folly, by an age of solitude and repentance, has long look'd down upon the world with pity and compassion, convinced that the intrigues of courts, the tyranny of monarchs,

G 4

narchs, the rebellion of subjects, the desire of accumulation, the triumphs of ambition, or the gratulations of vanity, would cease, could man restrain the ardour of his pursuits but a few moments, and ask himself these questions. To what end is this lust of power? this eagerness for the accumulation of riches? this desire of places, pensions and honours? or this endeavour to circumvent and outvie my neighbour? the answer is too obvious for me to have occasion to mention it."

"Was ambition, avarice, vanity, or any of the passions you have named," replied Asgar, "the cause of my present pursuit, your lecture would be well timed; but it has its foundation, not upon any of the motives you have mentioned, but, upon one you have, perhaps, properly forgotten. Neither Omar nor myself wish, you may be

be assured, to disturb the sacred solitude of Ismael. Whatever were his reasons for retiring from society, or however contemptuously he may, from his elevated station, look down upon the world, far be it from us, either to withdraw him from the seclusion in which he has lived, or to endeavour to better his opinion of mankind. His cell would never have been invaded, had he not become the protector of Galatie and Anime, who are the objects of the passion alluded to, in the breasts of Omar and Asgar, and who are perhaps accomplices in the crimes of Amurath.—Who are” “The nieces of Ismael,” replied the Hermit.”—“The nieces of Ismael?” echoed Asgar.—“Certainly! and though you say partakers of the crime of their father, I rather think the crime itself, for I fear it is but too obvious, that the beauty of the daughters hath driven

Erminia from Ormus, and caused Amurath to fly, tempest tossed upon our shores, into the woods and wilds of the adjacent mountain for protection; though alas! it has been found, that mountains or forests, are but a slight security against the united passions of lust and revenge. Yet, let not Ismael murmur at the decrees of Providence! an arm stronger than all the assembled forces of Persia, shall, in the hour of distress, be extended to crush the oppressor, and protect the innocent!"

While the Hermit spoke the last words, with an elevated voice, and dignified action, the genius of Asgar shrunk before him. One moment the torrent of his passions seemed ready to burst forth, and the next, his heart smote him with the truth of what he had heard. As this contention passed in his mind, a slave entered the tent,
when

when he ordered the Hermit to withdraw, saying, he would soon see him again. They conducted him back to the place where he had passed the preceding night, and there, the first object that struck his sight, was Amurath. The grief that clouded his countenance was observed; the sighs that rent his bosom were repeated by Ismael: the hours of darkness were spent in anxiety on the part of the father for the fate of his daughters, left in a dreary solitude, or, if taken from thence, exposed to all the accidents and cruelties to which beauty and innocence, unprotected, are liable. One minute, in his mind's eye, he beheld them wandering from the mountain in search of him; they seemed in an immense desert, exhausted with fatigue; a prey to wild beasts, or martyrs to famine, expiring in each other's arms. The next he sees them escaping from the brutal fury of Omar

and Asgar; they bound over the plain, their garments and lovely tresses flying behind them in the wildest disorder; they are overtaken;—he hears their shrieks, and starting, finds that he has rudely grasp'd the Hermit; who seizing that moment to represent to him the unmanliness and inefficacy of such inordinate transports, said,

“ Think not, Amurath, that I would endeavour to curb, or reason away the sensibility of a parent. Well I know that a father only, can properly feel the terror and anxiety of your present sensations: but although the good and virtuous may, for a time, be bowed with sorrow to the ground; though the shafts of destiny may sometimes pierce the bosom of innocence, yet seldom is the progeny of the righteous abandoned by Providence. The heavy hours that now pass in unavailing regret,
would

would be brightened; the load that oppresses your spirits, would in some degree be removed, were you to prostrate yourself before the throne of mercy, and recommend in fervent ejaculations your children, to that all-wise and all-powerful Being, who has hitherto preserved them." While the Hermit spoke these words, the first beams of the sun darted through the aperture of the tent. They threw themselves upon the earth, and after an hour spent in fervent prayer, a ray of comfort pervaded the heart of Amurath:—the Angel of Mercy sooth'd his troubled spirit; his hopes revived, and peace dawned upon his soul. Ismael perceived the alteration, and said,

"How strange are the workings of the human mind? How various its sensations? When oppressed by grief, how apt is man to let go the only rudder

der that can guide him into the harbour of safety? When elate with joy, how ready is he to spread the canvass of self consequence to every gale; to defy the tempest, though he sees it at a distance lowering in the sky, or hears it whistle in the wind; in either extreme, he forgets that there is a compass, which, if properly studied, will enable him to steer clear of the rocks and quicksands that too frequently lurk beneath the smooth ocean of prosperity, and save his vessel, envelop'd in the rapid eddies which rush onwards to the gulf of despondence."

As the friends were thus engaged in conversation, a message came from the chiefs, that they must attend them in the tent of Asgar. When they crossed the plain, they observed that the people were busy in such preparations as seemed to indicate a speedy removal;
the

the ships that were drawn closer to the shore, were unbending their sails. Amurath and Ismael sighed in unison, as they look'd toward the mountains, and in solemn silence followed the soldiers to the place of their destination.

CHAP. XIV.

WHEN ushered into the presence of the chiefs, Amurath was informed, that they, having attained the object of their voyage, were preparing to sail for the Persian gulf:—that as soon as he was on board, Ismael would be set at liberty. “We have,” said Asgar, “too much respect for the sanctity of his life, and the innocence of his manners,

ners, to wish to restrain, or subject him to inconvenience during his latter years; we take it for granted, that when he protected him, he was unacquainted with the crimes of Amurath."

"The crimes of Amurath!" said the latter.—"The crimes of Amurath," repeated the Hermit, "the sufferings of that unhappy father I have known and lamented, but am yet to learn that he has been guilty of any crime."

"Then learn of me," said Asgar, sternly, "that we are commissioned from the Persian court, to seize the person of Amurath, the merchant, who stands accused of the united crimes of treason and murder!"

"Heavens! Is it possible?" said he, "that I can be the object of such a prosecu-

a prosecution, treason and murder!—How? By what means can a man, who, 'till the hour of his flight, never bestowed attention upon any object but his family, and his commercial concerns, be accused of the former?—Or one who lamented even the fall of a sparrow; whose compassion extended to the preservation of the smallest insect; who considered even the worm and the beetle, as wonders of mechanism; as pieces finished and perfected by the hand of an Almighty workman, which it would be sinful and presumptuous to destroy, of the latter?"

“What respect you might have had for the reptile, or insect race,” replied Afsar, “I know not; that your crimes can be proved, I have great reason to believe; but as we are only to seize, and not to judge you, when you arrive at the tribunal, to which we shall

shall conduct you, there you will receive fuller information of the nature of your accusation."

"Murder! accused of murder!" said Amurath, "Of whom?"

"Since you will urge us to speak, of your wife," replied Omar.—The astonished Amurath fell into the arms of the Hermit, whose surprise had scarce left him power to support his friend.—At this juncture a noise was heard, and their wonder increased when they beheld Galatie, Anime, and the stranger enter.

The mystery and falshood of the accusation appeared now to the mind of Ismael, in some degree unravelled; and while the daughters flew to their father, supported him in their arms, and endeavoured by every means to
footh

sooth his grief, he repeated to the assembled chiefs the arguments he had before used to Asgar, and enforced them by others, calculated to persuade them to relinquish their designs; but to little purpose was the eloquence of the Hermit exerted, for although they heard him with attention, they still continued inexorable.

When the emotions of Amurath and his daughters had, in some degree subsided, the chiefs turned to the stranger, and Omar sternly demanded who he was?"

"Who I am?" said the stranger, "is to you immaterial; what I am, you see, a man: at present your prisoner. Thank heaven I am not like yourself, a tyrant! the fabricator of falsehoods! the oppressor of innocence! I lurk'd not, like the insidious tyger, to
seize

seize a defenceless prey, nor, like the hyena, endeavoured, by imitating the cry of distress, to lure the traveller to destruction."

Fire flash'd from the eyes of Omar, at this insinuation.—"Wretch!" said he, "you will be deceived if you think to brave, or turn aside our vengeance, by high sounding words:—from what place you came, or why you lurk'd in the surrounding woods, I shall not now inquire: perhaps you will be more explicit, when I inform you, that your steps were watched long before your meeting with Galatie! whether her presence has converted the lurking wanderer into a hero; whether that hero derives courage from the glances she now shoots at him, is best known to himself."

"Could

“ Could any thing add to the contempt I feel for Omar,” retorted the stranger, “ it would be his last insinuation! the glances of Galatie are probably those of compassion; but however I might delight in her regard, I want not the animation of her eyes to stimulate me to stand forth the scourge of tyranny and oppression, and even, unarmed, to spurn the man who dares to violate the laws which bind the Persians to succour the helpless, and protect the prisoner.”—Saying this, he flew at Omar; the daughters of Amurath shriek’d; the soldiers rush’d into the tent: but before they reach’d the place, he had wrench’d the sword from the hand of the chief, and opposing himself to the host, while he protected Galatie, who had step’d forward, as if to second his efforts, he dealt his blows around with such fury, as astonished and repressed the ardour of the
men

men who had flown to assist their leaders.

The confusion that reigned within was increased, and the cries of Asgar, who endeavoured to animate his troop, were now drowned in the uproar that raged without. The sounds of trumpets were succeeded by the discharge of musketry, and the clashing of arms. One minute brought the combatants to the tent, the next the sides of it were torn down, and the Hermit, Amurath, and his daughters, were surrounded by the conquering bands. The party of Asgar retreated, carrying off the wounded Omar; the stranger pursued them to their ships; but, as he was more bent upon rescue than vengeance, he suffered them to get on board, and returned in triumph to his friends.

Warm

Warm and glowing from the fight, and encircled by his deliverers, whom it now appeared were his companions in arms, the stranger stood in the midst of the tent. His animated looks seemed strongly expressive of the pleasure he felt, at having defeated the enemies of Galatie and her family. He laid the sword of Omar at her feet, and, kneeling, congratulated her upon their deliverance. The thanks to which her tongue denied utterance, beamed from her eyes, and reached the heart of the hero. To Amurath, the Hermit, and Anime, he also paid his respects, while they gazed at him with admiration, as, from the vivacity of his countenance, and elegance of his form, he seemed more than human.

When the emotions which a change of circumstances so unexpected had produced, were in some measure calmed,

ed, it was proposed by Ismael that they should ascend the mountain, and under the protection of the stranger and his friends, return to their former habitation, until they could resolve what course to pursue. The day was too far spent to begin the journey; the tents of Omar and Asgar still remained, and in them it was determined they should pass the night. The ships had not yet got under sail, though preparations seemed to be making on board for their departure. Guards were therefore properly stationed, and the party retired to rest, after partaking of a collation, which had been prepared for the fugitives.

CHAP. XV.

THE next morning the company observed, with pleasure, that the ships had left the coast, and from a rising ground they discerned them under sail, at a considerable distance. The stranger ordered the tents to be struck, and by slow and easy journeys, they ascended the mountain. Amurath and his daughters once more took possession of their retreat, the Hermit of his cavern, and the protecting band, under the command of the stranger, encamped upon the plain.

When they first arrived, they poured forth their thanks to heaven for their safety, and to the soldiers for their timely interposition.—“To us,” one of the chiefs replied, “no thanks are due; encamped in this neighbourhood, and under circumstances which will soon be explained, our commander, who had frequently wandered from the tents, at length totally disappeared: the confusion this event caused in our little troop, is scarcely to be expressed; parties were sent out to different parts of the mountain, one of which, in the course of their search, arrived at the precipice, whence they discerned the ships and encampment beneath. By a signal our men were collected together, and marched directly towards the plain; the consequence of our arrival you know; doubly and trebly happy are we, that by our exertions, not only the life of our chief was, in all probability,

probability, saved, beauty and innocence preserved, and sanctity rescued from the gripe of oppression, but, that all this was done without any material effusion of the blood even of our enemies." The stranger embraced his fellow soldiers; wing'd with peace and pleasure, the hours flew swiftly away: the Hermit and Amurath blended devotion and instruction with their discourses; Galatie and her sister, under the protection of a small party of their new-found friends, wandered through the woods, explor'd the grotto's, and trac'd the streams, that descended from the sides of the mountain.

In one of these excursions, they entered a cavern by a small aperture, but were agreeably surpris'd, when they found it led to a large hall, formed by nature in the rock, the sides of which were adorned with crystals, spars, and

other incrustations ; the roof was supported by columns of the same materials, and large stones which had grown into various forms, seemed placed like furniture in this apartment. Several openings were to be observed near the top, through which the solar beams darting upon the ores and spars, lapis lazuli, and mundics, were reflected and refracted in a variety of forms and directions ; the brilliancy which they threw around, was agreeably broken and softened by festoons of clinging plants and flowers, that hung like curtains over the pillars and part of the walls.

The company gaz'd for some time, lost in silent admiration ; after which, they explored the recesses of this masterpiece of nature's architecture ; and so much were they enchanted with it, that they resolved to visit it daily. Returning to the retreat, they informed

ed Ismael and Amurath of their discovery, and in a short time it became the place in which they constantly assembled. The books of the ladies, and an instrument which Galatie, with the assistance of the stranger, had formed, to imitate a harp, were brought thither; she sung, and the dulcet sound of her voice floated in the air, 'till lost in the distant echo's.

In this temple of tranquillity, the Hermit and his friends were sitting, when the conversation took a turn, which gave the stranger an opportunity to request the gratification of a curiosity, which had long been excited, namely, that of knowing by what means the respectable Amurath, and his lovely daughters, came into a situation so far secluded from mankind, and so environed with dangers, as that in which he found them. The Hermit

had already shortly mentioned his part of the story, and Amurath continued it to their appearance in the tent of Asgar. When the loss of his wife, accompanied by the accusation of having been her murderer, rose in his mind, unable to proceed, he threw himself into the arms of his daughters, and burst into tears.

To turn the attention of the father from his own sorrows, Ismael desired that the stranger would, in requital for their confidence, inform them of the story of his life, and account for the means by which he had been led to the discovery of Galatie in the wood. To which he replied, "The events of my life I have hitherto deemed few and trivial, but, if they afford an hour's amusement to the sage Ismael, Amurath, and his fair daughters, I shall no longer think them so, therefore, I gladly

ly seize the present moment to inform them of what they are so desirous to know, and recite

The History of a Stranger.

CHAP. XVI.

I WAS born at Ispahan, of parents who maintained a considerable rank among the Persian nobility. The first years of my childhood I pass over, as too unimportant to attract your attention. My education was entrusted to a tutor of the name of Scheick Ziman; under his instruction I made a considerable progress in the several branches of oriental learning; and having very

H 4

early

early discovered a strong inclination for a military life, my father, although he would rather have procured me an employment in the state, or the Persian court, at length, overcome by my entreaties, yielded. He obtained a commission for me, and I was sent to join the army, at that time employed to guard the frontiers against the inroads of the Tartars.

“ It would be useless to describe the various events of so desultory a war, which however terminated in the total defeat of our enemies ; and when I returned to the capital, my share in the numerous victories we had obtained, was so strongly represented to the Grand Vizier, that he introduced me to the Sophy, as a young officer of great merit. I was made an Omrah, and soon after sent, with a large and chosen army, to check the progress of
the

the Usbecks, on the coast of the Caspian Sea.

“ Previous to my setting out upon this expedition, a youth of the name of Haly, the son of Kouli Negif, who was the favourite of the Emperor, petitioned to make his first campaign under my auspices ; to which, happy in acquiring such a friend and companion in arms, I gladly consented. We left Ispahan in great spirits, but as our way lay along red and sandy deserts, where the heat was intense, our progress was slow ; and when we arrived in a more fertile country, the refreshment required by the men, obliged us frequently to halt. We chose the pleasantest spots that offered for our encampment, and where there was plenty of food and water for our horses and camels ; we sometimes stopped for two or three days.

H 5

“ In

“ In the early part of our march, such was the pleasure I took in the friendship of Haly, that we were inseparable: with regret I observed, that the further we proceeded, the more that friendship seemed to cool. Haly endeavoured industriously to shun me. Piqued at his behaviour, some days passed, in which I equally neglected him, and indeed had resolved to take no further notice of the capricious young officer, than my situation obliged me. In pursuance of this resolution, I sought other society. One evening, when after a tedious march, I had retired to my tent, an attendant slave informed me, that Haly devoted all his leisure to a youth who had for some time followed the army; that he had arrived about the period, when I had first perceived my friend slacken his attention to me. It was impossible for a general to suffer the intrusion of a
person,

person, such as he was described to me, who kept rather aloof from the army, and met Haly in secret, to pass unnoticed; therefore, the next time I had intimation of their being together, I ordered a guard to bring them into my presence.

“Haly might, from the elegance of his form, and the beauty of his countenance, have been called the Persian Antinous;—judge, then, my surprise, when the stranger step’d forward, and discovered a shape and face, as much surpassing my friend, as his did those of other men. His robe was of white muslin, spotted with gold, which, thrown over a green silk vest, and tied with a crimson embroidered sash, displayed to the greatest advantage, a figure the most perfect; his head was adorned with a small turban, ornamented with a crescent of diamonds, from

which a plume of ostrich feathers wav'd
in front; his hair, not confined, as is
the custom of the Persian soldiery,
flow'd in profuse ringlets over his
shoulders, which were cross'd by a
diamond girdle, to which was suspend-
ed a magnificent cimeter.

“The appearance of the youth struck
me with amazement, and almost invo-
luntarily I cried, “I forgive Haly for
his neglect of my friendship, and his
military duty, since the person who is
the cause of it, seems to have such su-
perior claims.”

“On the contrary,” said the youth,
“the generous Selim ought rather to
transfer his vengeance from Haly, to
one, who has been solely the motive
which hath induced him for some time
to appear, what in reality he was not
for one moment, ungrateful for the
favours

favours bestowed upon him. A friendship formed in the earliest part of our lives, was, I freely confess, my inducement to follow him:—and” as from my youth and inexperience, I had no hopes of obtaining my father’s consent, my regret at losing my friend, and desire to see that world, from which I had been in a great measure secluded, have led me to risk parental displeasure, by secretly withdrawing from his protection. I have, with a few attendants, followed the track of the army, and being at a distance, which I hope secures me from pursuit, I have only to request that I may be allowed to share the fortunes of Selim and Haly.”

“ The latter joined in this petition, which I granted, but at the same time desired to be informed of the name of the father of the noble youth.” Haly answered, “ the name of the father

ther of Aladin, is neither unknown to Selim, nor the world, but as I have weighty reasons to defer announcing it, 'till we reach the borders of the Caspian sea, I hope ——” “Say no more, my friend!” I replied, interrupting him, “though a veil of mystery hangs over your present conduct, so thoroughly am I convinced of your honour, and so much am I prepossessed in his favour, by the appearance of Aladin, that I take you both to my heart.” — “Permit me,” said I, addressing the latter, to share with Haly your friendship, 'till you shall judge me worthy of your full confidence, for which I shall respectfully wait to the time when you may think proper to trust me with it.” I could perceive Aladin blush at this speech, and when I embraced him, he seemed in some confusion, and immediately retired with his friend.

“ We

“ We continued our march several days, and were in expectation of soon arriving at the place of our destination; when one morning, some of the horsemen, who hovered in small parties upon the wings of the army, rode up to the center squadron, at the head of which I was, and said, that from the clouds of dust which arose at a considerable distance, they conceived an enemy to be approaching: though, from the situation of the place, I could not be of their opinion, I directly turned my horse toward the spot to which they pointed, resolved to reconnoitre. The troops, which were mounted upon fleet Arabian courfers, had gained considerably upon the army, but did not seem to consist of more than five or six hundred men. Astonished at the temerity with which they rushed forward, I was much more so, when they displayed the Persian banner. I now, convinced

convinced that they were friends, rode to meet them, when the chief, surrounding with his detachment the few that accompanied me, shewed the firman of the Sophi, and ordered me to be taken into custody directly.

“ Though I was ignorant of the crime laid to my charge, yet, as it was impossible to dispute the mandate, I delivered up my cimetar, and the army saw their General brought to them a prisoner.

“ Was I merely to say, I had the good fortune to be beloved by my soldiers, the expression would, by my friends, be considered as too cold: in fact, I was adored!—the Vizier, for it was him that commanded the party, was, as soon as the army was apprised of my capture, in his turn surrounded, and taken prisoner. As his detachment

ment was small, and few of those under my command joined them, the confusion and the murmurs of my men, at the indignity I had suffered, hourly increased, until, at length, it was absolutely necessary that I should appear, to appease the tumult. I therefore came amongst them, and represented the injury they did both to me and to themselves, by their refractory conduct. I enforced, with all the energy of which I was capable, the obligation they were under to receive the firman of the Sophi, with devotion and obedience, and treat the person of the minister, who came as a representative of that monarch, with respect. My persuasions had weight with them, and order was restored.

“ When the Vizier came to my tent, he informed me that he was commissioned to conduct me to Ispahan; but

but previous to that, he commanded me to discover what fate had attended the Princess, who had disappeared from the Seraglio soon after the march of the troops, and, as they had undoubted information, had followed me to the army.—Astonished at this intelligence, I hastily demanded what Princess?—Semira, coolly replied the Vizier, the favourite daughter of the Sophi. At that moment my suspicions were confirmed, and, with the utmost impatience, I commanded Haly and Aladin to be sent for. The officer that went in search of them, returned with terror in his looks, and said, that they were not to be found. I made the Vizier acquainted with their story, and troops were dispatched different ways in pursuit of them. In the mean time, another Bassa was appointed to command the army, and a strong guard ordered to conduct me to the capital.

We

" We had travelled several days, and so inattentive were the soldiers to the care of their charge, that many opportunities had offered, in which I might have made my escape; but supported by conscious innocence, I was determined to brave the storm that threatened me at court. In this resolution I continued, 'till a horseman, who had attended me closely for some time, one morning put a paper into my hand, which contained the following words.

" However secure Selim may be in the integrity of his own heart, a friend advises him not to trust entirely to that; the Sophi is irritated against him; the Vizier determined upon his destruction. If he does not oppose his own emancipation, this night he shall be rescued from the tyranny of the one, and the machinations of the other."

" When

“ When I had read this billet, I pondered some time upon its contents, and considering that innocence is not always a security against power, jealousy, and falshood, I resolved to seize the offered freedom, and leave to time the clearing up the aspersions upon my character.

“ The evening came, darkness had envelop'd the camp, when my tent was surrounded by an armed band, who carried me off, after a feeble resistance on the part of my guards. We rode through the whole of the night with equal celerity and silence : the dawn of the morning overtook us as we came to a wood ; I looked around, and observed with pleasure, that I was in the midst of my friends. Rustan, the chief of the band, thus addressed me.” — “ Pardon us, Selim, if the concern which we have felt for
your

your fate, which from private information, we understood, would be determined, as soon as you should arrive at Isfahan, hath induced us to quit the army, and rescue you from the guards that were conducting you to slaughter. Time will undoubtedly allay the anger of the Sophi, and do your character justice; the hour may arrive, when our desertion may not only appear an act of friendship to you, but of loyalty to him, as it may save him from the crimes of ingratitude and murder. In the mean while, as search will certainly be made for us, we must endeavour to elude it, in the woods and wilds of Caucasus. I will conduct you thither, and in that retreat we may live, 'till some change of affairs either promises to restore us to favour, or banishes us for ever from the Persian Empire."

" Though

“ Though I would have rather returned to court, and faced my enemies, I suffered myself to be overcome by the representation of Rustan. We retreated to the skirts of this mountain, and in the woods and caverns at the foot of it, concealed ourselves: the chase, in some degree, supplied us with food; what other necessaries we wanted, were procured from an adjacent village. In my hours of relaxation, fond of solitude, of exploring the beauties of nature, I frequently wandered to a considerable distance from the huts of my companions. In one of these excursions, amidst rocks, torrents, and all the variety of tremendous scenery, with which this country abounds, I was struck with the appearance of a large chasm in the side of one part of the mountain, which seemed as if rent asunder in some violent convulsion of nature. The palms, the cypress trees,

and the pines, had fallen with the stones, and formed a rude kind of arch, while their bare and straggling roots shooting between them in every direction, served the purpose of steps. Curiosity, or some impulse, for which I cannot account, made me resolve to explore the depth of this immense aperture. With caution I proceeded through avenues and recesses, in which the rocks and trees that over-hung the top, rendered the way scarcely visible; large masses of stone impeded my progress in some parts, in others rivulets of water.

“ The further I advanced, the more my difficulties seemed to increase; fatigued and dispirited, I sunk upon a turf, and had almost determined to return, when a ray of light darted across the gloom of the cavern; I made towards it, and discovered that it was a
small

small opening in the side of the rock. Glad, once more to behold the face of day, I descended, and found a path which led to the wood on the other side of this plain. The meeting betwixt Galatie and myself, you already know, therefore, nothing remains for me to add, but that my companions, alarmed at my absence, resolved to penetrate into the deep recesses of the caves in search of me. By the track which I had pursued, they arrived at the precipice, from which place, observing the tents of Omar and Asgar, they descended into the plain, and happily reach'd them in time, to save us from the captivity which seemed to await us.

CHAP. XVII.

WHEN Selim had finished his narration, which was heard with different emotions, by the Hermit, Amurath, and his daughters ; as at present peace reigned in their little community, he proposed, that they should leave that part of the mountain, and joining his band, travel upon the camels and horses, which they had left in the plain, to some town further remote from the Persian dominions, where, turning their jewels and other valuables, which had been saved from the wreck, and recovered among the spoils of Asgar's

VOL. I. I camp,

camp, into money, they might wait with patience, either until a revolution in their fortune gave them an opportunity to return to their country, or enabled them to seek a more agreeable asylum.

To this arrangement, an objection was made by Amurath, as he could not think of retiring to any distance from Persia, loaded as he was with obloquy. "For my own safety," said he, "I have no fears, and rather than bear the imputation of crimes, of which it was impossible that I could be guilty, I would, did not my consideration for the fate of my daughters deter me, appear personally before the Divan, and demand to be confronted by my accusers." — "Hold," said Ismael, "though by long habit solitude has become, to me, the most agreeable mode of life, and I am determined
never,

never, willingly, to mingle again with the world; yet, the connexions I have discovered, and the friends who are now around me, have, in idea, drawn me nearer to mankind, and in some degree joined the thread which I had imagined for ever broken; I now find that I have cares and anxieties which extend far beyond my cell. I must therefore, son Amurath, combat your wild and visionary scheme of presenting yourself before the Divan, and demanding justice. Though your words are the words of truth, and your impatience under obloquy and false accusation, speak rectitude of mind and conscious innocence, yet, consider the motives, the weight, and power of your enemies, and then tell me, are mankind in general, and the Persians in particular, reformed?—Are the courts of judicature purified?—Is the poor man heard with as much attention as his

opulent opponent?—Are causes decided as speedy, and at as small an expence as possible, so that a man may try to clear his fame, without ruining his fortune in the experiment? If these things are so, proceed directly to Ispahan, and surrender yourself to the Cadi :—but if, on the contrary, justice, though blind, is able to distinguish the wealthy from the poor suitor at her shrine :—if, notwithstanding, the fountain of law is pure, the streams are frequently polluted ;—if those oracles, upon whom we depend, seem more inclined to delay than to decide, to convict than to acquit, by no means in the heat of the present moment, with the outrageous chiefs, the prejudices and passions of the court against you, surrender yourself into their hands. The inactive life you must lead upon this mountain, ill suited to your meridian years, and by no means calculated to
procure

procure an oblivion to your sorrows; with the inconvenience that must attend the tender frames of your daughters, if they pass the winter, immersed in the snows of Caucasus, induces me to coincide with the idea of Selim, and wish you to remove to a place, where you may engage in some useful occupation, and enjoy the comforts and advantages of society, more adapted to the ages of Galatie and her sister, than any which these rude scenes can afford."

The pleasure of Selim at the coincidence of the Hermit with his opinion, was marked upon his countenance, when he arose to follow the daughters of Amurath, who had just left the company. He overtook them as they were crossing the plain: they stop'd to remark the picturesque effect of the cascade, which rushing with impetuous force over a precipice, dashed

from rock to rock, until its waters appeared a white foam, through which shrubs, and aquatic plants, seemed to have forced their way; their varied greens were softened by a mist, which rising from the waves, and spreading into the atmosphere, attracted the rays of the sun, and formed a double rainbow, whose colours mingling with the tints of the sky, were melted into the aerial perspective.

“ Charming Galatie,” said Selim, “ you seem lost in admiration of the landscape before us; and though your attention to the romantic scenery of this reclusé situation, is a strong trait of an elegant and well regulated mind, you will not, I hope, from the discourse I have just had with the sage Ismael, think hardly of me for wishing to withdraw one of the loveliest of the works of nature, from the pleasure she seems
to

to take in contemplating beauties inferior to her own; for however pleasing these rocks and wilds, may for a time appear, surely neither yourself nor sister, can object to leaving them, and returning to that society, which both are so formed to embellish and adorn."

"So far from wishing to return to the world," replied Galatie, "the misfortunes of Amurath, the loss of my mother, and the perfidy of mankind, have given me a disgust to it, while the example of Ismael has increased my desire for seclusion.—What are the advantages attendant upon Persian women, even in the most populous cities?—Are they not considered as an inferior race of beings, the toys of an idle hour? immured in Harams, are they not, when they become wives, distinguished as being, perhaps, the most of all the train of female slaves, subjected to the
I 4 caprice

caprice of a lordly master?—Do not the walls, and double gates of a Seraglio, divide us far more effectually from the world, than the ramparts which nature hath raised around this plain?"

"To the interrogatories of Galatie," said Selim, "I can only bow acquiescence; that things are so is certain; but, though born a Persian, and taught to hold the manners of my country in respect, I have, ever since the age of reflection, considered your sex as injured by the little estimation in which their mental endowments are held in the east;—yet, I have read, that in countries far remote from the doctrines of Mahomet, or the laws of Brama; in countries where the mild influence of Christianity has given to all human creatures the rights they ought to hold in society, unfettered by any dictates but those of reason, religion

gion and virtue, exceptions there are in the lives and actions of some of the natives, to the rules and precepts generally promulgated. If in Christendom some avail themselves of our licentious example, may not a Persian, by the same mode of reasoning, be induced to follow their general one, which has virtue and principle for its basis."

"With respect to the union of hearts, plighting their faith, and preserving a constancy to one object," said Galatie, "I fear, although my father is an instance, there are, among our countrymen, few others to be found."

"Yet," replied Selim, with animation, "there is one other that would gladly follow the example of the respectable Amurath: who, from the first hour in which he beheld Galatie, in his

own mind, made the vow she has mentioned; who, though then struck with her lovely form, has been daily more and more captivated with her mental endowments, and, who now kneeling at her feet, and breathing the soft and tender accents which his passion inspires, repeats that one is Selim."

While the young Persian poured forth the torrent of love that had long been collecting in his heart, the countenance of Galatie underwent a variety of suffusions: trembling, fluttering, pale and red, by turns; when he threw himself at her feet, she gave a faint cry, which reach'd the ears of Anime, then at a little distance; she flew to support her sister, who, gathering courage from her presence, replied, "Perhaps the vanity of Galatie, in judging and censuring the actions of others, was to be punished by this declaration

of Selim's, or else, surely, from the generosity that marks his character, and the benignity which attends all his words and actions, he would have considered the time, the place, our forlorn situation, the anxiety of Amurath, and ——”

“ Hold! lovely Galatie,” said Selim, “ nor reproach me for giving utterance to sentiments, which have been long rooted in my heart, and of which I can repent nothing, but that the ardour with which they were delivered, has discomposed you: though surely, from the turn the conversation had taken, the opportunity was——”

“ I confess, and blushing confess,” said Galatie, “ given by me.”

“ Whatever may have been the subject of the preceding conversation,

which my attention to procuring a bouquet from the wild flowers and shrubs in the vicinity, precluded me from sharing," said Anime, "if Selim has offended my sister, I am certain, from the elegant refinement of his manners, it must have arisen from some momentary inadvertence, and perhaps from too much sensibility in the mind of my dear Galatie."

"Name her not with tenderness!" she replied, "what has passed on the part of Selim, was the result of her uncautious, unreserved——"

"Seek not," said Selim, "charming Galatie, to load yourself with harsh epithets, nor repent of that artless disposition, that openness of heart, and simplicity of manners, which are, in my opinion, among the first of female excellencies.—Bred in camps, and lit-
tle

the acquainted with the fair sex, the heart of Selim remained free, 'till subdued by the beauty now before him; therefore, while he repeats his sorrow for the pain his ardent declaration gave to Galatie, permit him to hope for pardon for the involuntary error of one, who promises to wait with all the patience possible, 'till his own circumstances, and her more permanent peace, warrant a renewal of the subject."

"I believe," said Anime, "I may, on the part of my sister, answer, that she is not implacably offended, I shall therefore present to you her hand, in token of forgiveness." Selim took it in raptures, and Galatie said, "Judge me not, capricious Selim, if I observe, that though sensible of your merit, the uncertainty of our situation, the time, the place, and other circumstances, render it improper to prolong a conversation

versation of this nature, I must therefore——”

Here they were joined by Amurath and the Hermit; Rustan, and the companions of Selim soon after appeared; it was then proposed, that leaving the retreat for a few days, the Persian soldiers should descend and join their companions in the plain; that they, from the nearest town, should procure accommodation for Amurath and his daughters, and when all was ready, return to convoy them to the place, which, in the mean time, they should fix upon for their future residence.

CHAP. XVIII.

IN consequence of the plan laid the preceding evening, the rising sun beheld Selim, Rustan, and their companions, ready to begin their march. The Hermit and his friends assembled. Ismael observing the sorrow impressed upon the countenances of both parties, said: "No greater tribute can be paid to the merit of one person by another, than when separation is accompanied with regret: abstracted from the general obligations which we owe to the whole band, the virtues of Selim and Rustan have made an impression upon
our

our hearts, that a much longer absence, than I hope their's will prove, could not eradicate. With the blessing of an old man, the thanks of a father and daughters, whose lives and innocence you have preserved, go, my children, depart in peace, and may the protecting angel shadow you with his wings, and return you in safety !”

With solemnity and silence, Selim embraced Amurath: when he bowed upon the hands of the sisters, a tear dropped on that of Galatie; who, with Anime, immediately retired.

When the Persians returned to their friends in the plain, they were surprised to find the huts, which had been formed with clay, and covered with palm branches, fortified by a rampart of earth, thrown up round the extremities, and that their horses and camels
were

were placed in the center; the meaning of the alteration that had taken place, was thus explained to them:— In the silence of the night a sudden attack was made upon the centinels, by a troop of wandering banditti, who had endeavoured to plunder their encampment; but rushing on with more courage than skill, they were repulsed by the superior discipline of the Persians, who had run to arms upon the first alarm, and before whom the robbers retreated, though not without carrying off several horses.

The caution of Selim led him next morning to survey the works, and take every method to insure their future safety; a caution, which the event shewed was necessary, as a very few days had elapsed, before the banditti returned in much greater force, and sweeping like a whirlwind over the plain,

plain, rush'd upon the Persian host. The conflict was long and obstinate, but in the end, the friends of Selim were victorious, if it could be called a victory, in which nearly an equal number was slain on either side, and the two leaders, Selim and Rustan, wounded.—The greatest advantage accruing to the Persians, was, the capture of the Arabian chief, and several of his men, among whom, was one who discovered that the quarters of the banditti were at the foot of a mountain, at no great distance; these, their own security determined them immediately to attack.

As the two chiefs were unable to conduct the enterprize, the command devolved upon Ivan, who, with a chosen hand, undertook it. This expedition was attended with all the success that they could have wished; they dispersed,

perfed, or brought prifoners the greateft part of the troop, and totally deftroyed their retreat.

Slight, as at firft were thought, the wounds of Selim and Ruftan, the anxiety of the former to perform his commiffion, and to return to the mountain, in order to conduct his friends to a place of greater fafety, had fo preyed upon his mind, as in conjunction with the fatigue he had undergone, to caufe a confiderable inflammation. Ruftan, therefore, examined the chief, and the other prifoners, whom they had taken. From the ignorance and brutality of the Arabian, he could gather but little : it appeared that he had long wandered over a vaft extent of country, waging that defultory kind of war, of which the Perfian band had felt the effects.

As

As among the spoils of their horde, many European letters and commodities were found, it led them to imagine that they had either plundered a caravan, or some straggling merchants; but of this, Rustan could obtain no satisfactory account; and as he did not wish to encumber his camp, he was upon the point of dismissing, with a severe reprimand, the chief, and some of the other prisoners, when a party, who had lingered to complete the demolition of a small horde of huts, which had been discovered at a distance from the former, arrived:—they brought a few slaves, and two women, who, by their appearance, they judged to be Europeans; and, as they seemed to look with peculiar fear and abhorrence upon the Arabian chief, Rustan thought proper to countermand his emancipation, while he endeavoured to obtain from the ladies, the cause they had of complaint.

complaint against him ; but to that, an insuperable bar remained ; the language of either party was unintelligible to the other.—“ Selim, skill’d in several tongues, would perhaps understand them ; but Selim, alas ! at present,” said he, “ is unable to appear. Further examination into this matter, we must therefore postpone, ’till his health shall be restored, and his mind sufficiently at ease to undertake it.”

While the chief languished upon the bed of sickness, he scan’d the actions of his former life ; he reflected upon the affliction and disgrace which the accusation brought against him, and his secession from the army, must occasion to his father ; lamented his unfortunate connexion with Haly, to whose perfidy, reputation, interest, honour, had been sacrificed.—“ Among the Persian youth, among the various candidates

didates for fame," said he, "were there any that began the career of glory with greater applause than Selim?—Fortune seemed to spread her attractions before me, and victory to follow wherever my banner was displayed.—By what means have they been driven from me?—Why am I become an outcast! a wanderer?"—He was continuing this train of reflection, when the Angel that presides over the passions of the virtuous, whispered—Galatie!—The sound of that lov'd name, like electricity, pervaded his system!—desertion from the troops—loss of friends, fortune, nay, even his wounds, were for that moment forgotten; and when called again to his remembrance, considered as trifles, in comparison to the pleasure he found in contemplating upon her lovely form, her mental endowments, and the service he had rendered her.

These

These ebullitions of mind, so unfavourable to recovery, were, with anxiety, observed by Rustan; he probed the heart of Selim, and found that great part of his uneasiness arose from the little progress he had been able to make in the commission with which he was entrusted.—The latter was ever dwelling upon the approach of the stormy season; ever dreading the situation of his friends upon the mountain; he therefore eagerly caught at the proposal which Rustan made, to return and inform them of the accident that had occasioned the delay on his part. When this idea was started, the earnestness and impatience with which Selim urged his departure, made his friend tremble, not only at the present disposition of his mind, but, for the pain and perturbation he would suffer during his absence; he therefore hastened away, attended by two of his chosen companions.

The

The shortened days had for some time marked the declining year; the foliage of the trees, which had so lately formed the grandest masses, now exhibited the most beautiful variety of autumnal tints; the deep red, the yellow, and the brown, were relieved and heightened by the younger shoots of vivid green. The umbrageous solemnity of the groves had decreas'd, while the winds were hourly sweeping the dry and withered leaves from the immense forests; and from the contemplation of those vegetable ruins, the mind of Rustan, oppressed with horror, seemed to shrink into itself. Swell'd by the rain that dash'd from rock to rock, the brooks had become rivers; the winding and devious ways through the caverns were rendered slippery, and nearly unpassable. After three days of toil and fatigue, when darkness
had

had long fallen upon that side of the mountain, without a single gleam of the moon, or star to guide them, the way-worn travellers arrived at the retreat.

PART THE THIRD.

CHAP. XIX.

Pursue a course more promising
Than a wild dedication of yourselves
To unpath'd waters, undream'd shores ;
Most certain to miseries enough :
No hope to help you.

SHAKESPEARE.

SLEEP, the terror of the wicked,
the refreshment of the weary, the balm
and comfort of the wretched, and the
riches of the poor, had closed the eyes
of Ismael, Amurath, and Anime. By
them,

them, the cautious steps of Rustan and his friends, when they arrived at the retreat, were unheard; but Galatie, whose serious disposition had increased since the departure of Selim, had long, in her wakeful ideas, numbered the hours that would pass ere his return. Unpractised in the concerns of the world, she had but little suspicion of any mischief arising to him, in the expedition he had undertaken. 'Till driven from home, by the machinations of Omar and Asgar, the current of her days had glided smoothly on, and when they retreated, she thought every enemy to her repose had fled; therefore, she could not, to herself, account for the extreme dejection, and heaviness, that at present oppressed her. Reflecting upon this subject, the whispers of the Persians at the entrance of the cavern, assailed her ears. She started, and her agitation awakened Anime.

She thought that in the murmurs of the breeze she heard the name of Selim: she listened with the most eager attention; the sound of voices ceased; trampling of feet succeeded; they also died away; silence ensued, the darkness continued; and encircled in each other's arms, the sisters waited for the dawn of day, with anxiety and trepidation.

When the light permitted them to unbar their cell, Amurath came to them, and with a gloom upon his countenance, which surprised and spread dejection over the features of his daughters, informed them of the cause to which they owed the solemn sounds that had disturbed their repose; which, while he was explaining, the Hermit entered, accompanied by Rustan; he continued the discourse of Amurath; the emotions of Galatie and
Anime

Anime followed him through the relation; but, when he came to the wounds, and subsequent sickness of Selim, the exertions of the former would not enable her to support her spirits, and tho' she called to her aid all that female fortitude, virgin dignity, and innate modesty, for which she had ever been distinguished; they were insufficient to suppress her sensibility, so that after suffering for some time, from a variety of conflicting passions, in attempting to speak, her voice failed her, and she fell lifeless into the arms of her sister.

The grief of Amurath at the situation of his daughter, was little alleviated by the efforts of Ismael and Rustan, who united their endeavours to restore her.

“ Miserable wretch that I am !” he cried, “ Will the vengeance of the Almighty never cease to pursue me ? Can I wish to retain my senses, when they present nothing to my mind but affliction ? when they only serve to barb the dart of sorrow, and at every sigh drive it deeper into my heart.— Unfortunate Erminia ! lovely and beloved Galatie, if thou too art lost, what can an unhappy father wish to live for ?”

“ Another daughter !” said the Hermit, with sternness, stopping him as he was running out of the cavern. “ Art thou to judge when the task to which thou wast appointed is performed ? Art thou to desert thy post, because thou art not placed in a situation quite agreeable to thy own wishes ? Your present state of mind,” he continued, in a lower tone, “ precludes me from saying any
more

more than that I conjure you to have done with this unmanly repining; your duty to your daughters, to society, to your own fame, demands your exertions, to bear the burthen laid upon you; and depend upon it, however heavy it may now seem, it will be considerably lightened, if borne with humility and patience."

While this conversation passed, the exertions of Anime and Rustan, had recalled, in a small degree, the scattered spirits of Galatie; signs of life appeared; she moved her lips, and a faint flush revisited her pallid cheeks. The Hermit, with an elixir, which he kept as a sovereign remedy, seconded their efforts; her bosom again heaved, she opened her eyes, and after sighing for some time, she embraced her sister, and burst into a violent flood of tears.

The precepts, and even the example of Ismael, were insufficient to controul the passions of Amurath ; his joy was nearly as outrageous as his sorrow had been ; he blessed him for his assistance, folded his daughters in his arms, and ardently thanked the Persian.

Time, which meliorates the mind, and softens griefs the most poignant, exerted its influence on the heart of Galatie. Of her illness, only a faint lassitude remained, which, with the paleness of her countenance, rendered her beauty more irresistibly interesting.

The indisposition of Selim, was lamented by the whole party, and, as the dreariness of the mountain daily increased, the Hermit was anxious for the removal of Amurath and his daughters, into a situation more adapted to the habits of life to which they had
been

been accustomed. On the contrary, the wishes of the father to mix again with the world, had much declined, and the lovely Galatie, without looking to future events, desired nothing so much as the recovery of the chief, in which she was joined by the compassionate Anime.

Rustan and his companions had, more than once, proposed that they should descend through the caverns, and joining the party in the plain, travel from thence to the nearest town, where they might spend the winter. While they were pondering upon this proposal, the snow began to fall upon the mountain, which, borne by the winds, rolled down the declivities, and almost buried the retreat, the bushes and shrubs upon the plain: therefore, as the dates and other fruit, which the Hermit had gathered and

K 5 dried

dried for his winter store, were insufficient for them all, their removal was no longer a matter of choice ; though it was in some measure accelerated by the arrival of a messenger from Selim, who sent a letter, expressing his impatience at the stay of Rustan, and his fears for the safety of his friends.

Impatient and anxious indeed had been the Persian chief; for though his wounds were not attended with dangerous symptoms, he recovered but slowly, owing, in a great degree, to the irritable state of his mind. This Ivan, who watched over him in the absence of Rustan, took every method to sooth. He related to him the events of the last expedition, and, what more particularly engaged the general's attention, the transactions of that army, of which he had been obliged to relinquish the command, through the perfidy of Haly.

The

The war, on the part of the Persians, had been unsuccessful ; the Bassa, who succeeded Selim, disliked by the officers for his haughtiness, and still more by the soldiers, for his cruelty, arrived on the banks of the Caspian Sea, with the troops nearly in a state of mutiny. The Usbeck Tartars, who had intelligence of this event, joined by some Persian Afiglans, attacked them before they had time to compose their differences, which the chief, finding himself in danger of being deserted, had vainly endeavoured to do. Soldiers, in the temper alluded to, are seldom irresistible ; the courageous Tartars, and treacherous Afiglans, bore down all opposition : the Bassa was slain, the grand standard taken, numbers were killed, and the troops of the Sophi totally routed.

The observation of Selim was riveted upon Ivan during this relation, though he let him conclude before he inquired by what means he came to the knowledge of the circumstances he had recited?—"By means of an Afghlan, one of our prisoners," he replied, "who was in the battle, and has since deserted and joined the party of the Arabian chief."

He was immediately ordered into the presence of the General, and corroborated every particular which he had before asserted, to which he added, that some Persian prisoners of superior rank, had attributed the ill success that had attended their arms, to the arresting their former Bassa, who, it was supposed, had fallen a victim to the fury of the Sophi, and treachery of the Vizier, for having tempted the daughter

ter of the Monarch, to follow him in disguise to the army.

This account, in which truth and fallhood were blended, was heard with concern and emotion by Selim; he asked the prisoner abundance of questions, and found a temporary relief from his sorrows, while conversing with him. Ivan, observing that the introduction of the Afghlan had had a good effect upon the mind of Selim, as it diverted his thoughts, in some degree, from the dullness of the passing hour, informed him of the capture of the European ladies; and as his health seemed in a state of gradual improvement, endeavoured to excite his curiosity to converse with them; which, from his skill in various languages, he presumed he was capable of doing. The representations of his friend were not lost upon Selim; he saw the bene-

volence of his motive, and he rose in his esteem. The return of the messenger, whom he had sent to his friends upon the mountain, with an account of their preparations to join him, and a few lines from Galatie, threw a gleam of sun-shine around him, and made him resolve, as he was at peace within, to endeavour to alleviate the distresses of his prisoners, if it was in his power. He accordingly ordered them into his tent.

They came, attended by Ivan, and two of his fellow soldiers. The beauty and dress of both, seemed to have suffered from the terror and fatigue they had undergone ; for when the one that appeared the superior, advanced, he observed, that though her attire displayed taste and elegance, it had been in some measure neglected. Her dishevel'd hair hung loose upon her shoulders ;

shoulders; the small hat placed on one side of her head, was torn, the feathers broken, and her long muslin robe trail'd unnoticed upon the ground.

The other, whose apparel was rather more regular, seemed a domestic, who observing the attention with which Selim examined them, thus addressed him in English. "Pity, benevolent sir, two unfortunate females, who, travelling to the British army, in search of the wounded husband of this lady." Here she observed, by the countenance and motions of the General, that he was unacquainted with her language, when, turning to her superior, he spoke to her in French, and had the pleasure to find, that they had, in that tongue, a medium for the communication of their sentiments; but previous to the requesting any information respecting her former fortunes, the considerate

Bassa

Bassâ ordered all the European baggage, letters and other articles, to be brought into the tent, and spread before her; the attendant immediately shewed him what part of it had been the property of her mistress, whose attention seemed to be engaged in a minute search after something else; as she whispered to herself: "Alas! I fear it is totally lost." To the inquiry of Selim, she answered, "that the object of her anxiety was a picture."—"A picture!" he repeated in French, and then in Persian, to the soldiers that had brought the baggage; this caught the ear of the Afghlan, who informed them that he had, that very day, observed something of that kind in the possession of the Arabian Chief, who was endeavouring to unset the jewels with which it was surrounded, and that, in all probability, it was destroyed. While the Bassâ explained this to the lady, Ivan
and

and the soldiers flew out of the tent; they demanded it of the Arabian, who, though he denied at first, any knowledge of it, upon being menaced by their spears, he, at last, with reluctance, resigned it to them.

As they returned, they observed it to be the portrait of an European officer; it was superbly set round with diamonds, and hung to a string of gold beads. Entering the tent, Ivan gave it into the hand of Selim, who, after a speech, expressive of the pleasure which the recovery of a gem that she seemed to value so much, gave him, presented it to the lady, who gazing at it for a few moments, burst into a flood of tears, and placing it in her bosom, retired with her attendant.

CHAP. XX.

ALTHOUGH vegetation still continued on the plains; though the beasts had not yet retreated to their dens and caverns; though the birds, in faint warblings, still fluttered through the groves; and insects, with a small portion of their former activity, heavily moved their wings, or drag'd a languid existence in the milder gleams of the declining sun: winter had spread its icy bondage over the mountains: the pine and oak, upon the tops of their rugged cliffs, appeared skeletons; the palm

palm and cypress, even in lower situations, bent beneath a load of snow.

The friends of Ismael, prepared to leave those dreary regions; and indeed nothing opposed their departure, but the desire of Amurath, to persuade him to abandon his elevated and solitary abode, and mixing again with mankind, endeavour to increase the happiness of his declining years, by the comforts and conveniencies to be found in society.

To this request, which was enforced by Rustan, he replied, "There is, I am firmly persuaded, son Amurath, in most men, perhaps about the middle age, a desire to retire from the world, and pass the rest of their days in seclusion: that desire arises from two motives; the first of which is disappointment, the second fatigue.

" Of

“ Of the first; it frequently happens, that, in the morning of youth, when a man launches his bark into the ocean of the world, he is apt to value the lading of his abilities by the same, or perhaps a higher standard, than that set upon them even by his parents, and his partial friends. Fraught with this idea, he enters upon his profession or employment, and vainly supposes, his genius, formed to mount aloft, will soon bear him to the top of it. A few years convinces him, that however high he might rate his own talents, he has competitors, of whom the public have a still greater opinion, and that he is striving against the stream.

“ He looks around, and beholds that several of his companions, who started at the same time, have reach'd the goal, and are elevated far above him. Does he then condemn the
wrong

wrong exertions he has made in the pursuit? Does he then own the superior talents of his cotemporaries? No! that his vanity still hinders him from doing. He attributes their rise to fortune, chance, patronage, any thing but merit; in that, the last dregs of self-adulation whisper him, he is infinitely superior.

“ In consequence of this suggestion, he redoubles his efforts: alas! he finds that they are ineffectual. His disappointment is therefore doubled. Disgusted with his profession, friends, every thing, but himself, he wishes to withdraw from a circle which hath paid no greater regard to his genius; and secluded from society, let them find the inconvenience of his absence. Vain mortal! of how small consequence is, even the greatest of men, in the general system: a few hours after respiration

tion ceases, it is of little importance whether the breath that has mingled with the atmosphere, animated the corpse of an Emperor or an insect.

“ The other candidates for seclusion, are perhaps those that have been the envy of the former, who have emerged from school or college, into a world of business. Who have ruled the state, guided the councils, and directed the helm of their country. Or engaged in opposition, have shone the idols of the people. Or fatigued with unbounded commerce; with the pursuit of military glory, or endless professional litigation, are, about the meridian of their years, afraid of being forsaken by their powers: who wish to retire in the zenith of their reputation, and find, or think they find, their diurnal labours too great, their mental exertions too intense: they resolve to withdraw to
solitude

solitude and repose: to the pleasures of friendship, domestic enjoyment, and literary leisure; and here you will ask, What hinders them? the answer, though obvious, is almost ridiculous: They have ample fortunes, but not exactly the sum they had determined to possess. Another thousand tomonds would make it compleatly so, but ere these are acquired, their minds alter, they resolve upon gaining two thousand more. Thus they go on from year to year, with the wish for solitude in their mouths, and the desire of accumulation in their hearts, 'till the curtain drops, which closes the scene of this eventful history.

“ Of the votaries of dissipation; of those that have squandered away their fortunes in vicious pursuits, or frivolous pleasures, I have already spoken, when I faintly sketch'd my own story,

at

at our first meeting ; but though I flew to solitude, to avoid that scorn and derision to which my folly and extravagance had rendered me liable, such are the mercies that I have received, and so strongly am I attached to my present mode of life and situation, that I am determined, for the remaining years, whether the Almighty shall extend or curtail them, to continue in that seclusion, from which I have derived such manifold advantages.

“ For you, Amurath, your situation is different : your life has hitherto been virtuous, though unfortunate : you have children, friends, connexions, that chain you to mankind : you will endeavour to justify yourself from the aspersions of Omar and Asgar ; or if that is impossible, and you wish to retire further from the rays of their influence, you will choose some country, either under
the

the protection of the European powers, or the Indian princes, where you may, with your children, and probably their connexions, finish a youth of toil and misfortunes, by an age of ease and happiness."

Amurath, Galatie, Anime, and the Persians, had paid the greatest attention to the Hermit; and notwithstanding his objections, when he had ended his discourse, they renewed their solicitations to him, to join them in the expedition.

Among other topics, the father strongly urged the ties of consanguinity, which was seconded by the daughters: to which he replied, "Happy as I am to embrace the son and offspring of a beloved and lamented brother, even the pleasure of their company, greatly as it is valued by me,

has no power to shake my resolution. One circumstance alone, would, however reluctant, have drag'd me again into the world. Had these fair blossoms been unprotected; had they been left orphans, exposed to penury, and forced to encounter the hardships attendant upon that state, I should then have thought it my duty to emerge from solitude, and stand forth as their refuge; but, under the guidance of their father, whose wisdom and experience are equal to the task, and whose parental love is tremblingly anxious for their future welfare, they stand in little need of the counsel of Ismael, nor when they change their protector; when the hour arrives, in which the sire resigns his sceptre to the husband, is there any doubt, from the elegance of their minds, their understanding and modesty, but that their choice will be such, as, while it does honour to their judgment,

judgment, will increase the happiness of Amurath."

At the conclusion of this speech, the blushes of Galatie and her sister, rose in quick succession; they extended their arms to the Hermit, and burst into tears.

Ruftan, and his companions, affected with the scene, after thanking him for his observations, pointed to the sun, which was travelling fast toward the meridian, and urged their separation. Several soldiers, who had been employed to smooth the ruggedness of the way in a few places, arrived. They loaded themselves with the baggage, tents, and other necessaries, and the party moved slowly across the plain. When they came to the edge of the wood, the Hermit said, "Here ends my travels toward the habitable world.

When you have passed this bourn, the real connexions between Ismael and his nearest relatives, are dissolved; mentally, they will last as long as memory holds its seat. Daily and nightly shall my prayers be offered up to the Almighty, for the preservation of Amurath and his children. Necessary, though I think our separation, it is with concern I behold you ready to encounter the evils attendant upon the endeavour to struggle through a troublesome world. For myself, I return to that solitude and contemplation, fitted to my time of life. I have but few words to add, and they are, that if ill fortune should continue to persecute you, you will, my children, while I exist, always find my feeble arms extended to receive you, and are sure of a retreat, however rude and dreary it may seem, in the bosom of Caucasus."

Fatiguing,

Fatiguing, to a great degree, to Galatie and her sister, was the descent through the caverns, though they were carried over the morrasses by the soldiers, in a kind of palanquin, constructed of the branches of trees.

The party was obliged to erect huts, to secure the ladies from the nightly dews, and in them they slept, under the protection of Amurath and Rustan. After enduring great hardships for several days, they arrived at the Persian camp.

The joy of Selim, at their meeting, was extreme; he embraced Amurath and his daughters: the eyes of Galatie shewed the sensibility his paleness and emaciated features excited in her mind, and a sigh, at the same moment escap'd, from the tender bosom of Anime.

The attention of the Bassa to their accommodation, had led him to order a large tent to be erected in the centre of the camp, near that of the European lady, to whom he introduced them, and recited as much of her story as had come to his knowledge.

In a few days, the health of Selim visibly amended, and the travellers from the mountain being recovered from their fatigue, the inhabitants of the camp began to associate in one large party, from which only, the Arabian chief was excluded. A ferocity, which even bondage could not tame, strongly marked his character ; he therefore continued in the camp, under a guard, but was permitted, with his attendants, at certain hours, to walk through the lines. While he was, one day, enjoying this liberty, Anime and her sister, followed by Rustan, passed his quarters.

He

He desired some conversation with the latter, who, resigning the ladies to their father, who had joined them, entered the tent, from which he was surprised to see the Afghlan prisoner, he having declared the greatest enmity to the Arabian, retreat with some precipitation. When he entered into conversation with the captain, he easily discerned, that the earnestness with which it was desired, was unnecessary, as it consisted merely of a repetition, on his part, of proposals for his liberation, in which he artfully interwove inquiries respecting the ladies, such as, whether they were captives, which the chance of war had put into their hands? where taken? and some hints that he envied Selim the success with which he had commenced his predatory war, and, he continued, that such was his opinion of the courage and conduct of the Bassa, that although he had

never yet served under any one; he should have no objection to follow his fortunes as second in command."

If Rustan was surprised at the audacity and ignorant misapprehension of this speech, he was still more so, when he went on saying, that he was perfectly acquainted with the places where they might dispose of their commodities to advantage, and the persons to whom they might, with safety and success, consign their female prisoners. "I observe," he continued, "that you have, besides the Europeans, two, who from the slight glance I have had of their forms and features, seem perfectly beautiful. A merchant who sails from Arabia to Ormus, by the Gulph, and from thence travels to Ispahan, almost every year, brings numbers of slaves to the Seraglio, and different Harams; the name of Sefi Zulpha

pha is well known to all engaged in this kind of traffick."

The patience of Rustan was exhausted; he could bear no longer: "Wretch," said he, "dost-thou imagine, that either Selim or myself, mean to make a property of beauty and innocence, when their misfortunes have thrown them into our protection?"—"Undoubtedly you do," replied the Arabian, with great coolness: "When Selim deserted from the army, and engaged in our profession, he certainly designed to make every advantage of it. I have offered him all the benefits which he may derive from my friendship and my experience; and if he, in reality, possesses that wisdom, for which he has been celebrated, he will not neglect them, as, perhaps, the hour may come, when he may wish for my knowledge, my stratagems, and

my resources, to evade the search that will be made for him. Knowing, as I do, the disposition of the Sophi, and the temper of the Vizier, I am certain that they will not suffer the Princess Semira to be enticed from the Seraglio, and concealed, or perhaps sold, into some distant province, with impunity."

The temper of Rustan, during this speech, underwent a variety of changes. Thrice he laid his hand upon his cimeter, and as often drew it back, upon observing the defenceless state of his adversary. Fearing, however, that further discourse upon this topic, would irritate his passions, and perhaps render them ungovernable, he left him with disdain; and, before he entered the tent of Selim, took a turn to compose his mind. In reflecting upon what had passed, it occurred to him, that, loaded
with

with obloquy as Selim was, at the Persian court, and as it would, with so large a party as theirs, be impossible to keep the place of his retreat long concealed, there was but too much probability, that the vengeance of the Sophi, or the malice of his enemies, might follow him. Prudence, therefore, dictated a further removal from the Persian dominions, a removal which every hour rendered more necessary; as keeping so large a body together, besides the trouble and inconvenience attending it, could not, in the present state of their finances, be continued for any great length of time. These matters, he intended to take an opportunity to mention to the Bassa; and having, in some degree, composed his ruffled temper, he turned his steps toward the tent of Selim.

CHAP. XXI.

WHEN Rustan entered the place in which the whole company were assembled, he observed, that they expressed a considerable degree of impatience at his long absence; and upon inquiring found, that they wished for him to attend the reading of the adventures of the English lady, which Galatie and Anime had collected from her in different conversations held in French, and the former had written in the Persian language. He apologized for neglecting an opportunity of receiving

receiving so much pleasure; but without mentioning any part of the conversation between him and the Arabian chief, entreated Anime, who had the papers in her hand, to begin; which request she complied with in the following words.

The History of an English Lady.

It is scarce necessary to inform ladies, so well acquainted with European customs, and so well skilled in a European language, which has of late years become almost universal, of the power, the riches, and the opulence, derived by Great Britain, from Oriental acquisitions.

From the middle of the last century, these advantages have continued to flow to our island, increasing at first gradually,

dually, like the tide of a river, that roll'd a constant and regular stream, and fertilized the country to which its waters were directed; but, for many years back, that river has swell'd beyond its proportion; the floods have risen; its banks have been broken down; the land has been inundated, and what was formerly a stream, has become a deluge. To speak without metaphor: The opulence of the East India Company, for you are to understand, that although they reign despotic sovereigns over a great part of this continent, they assume no higher character than that of Merchants in England: the celerity and apparent ease, with which fortunes, the most enormous; wealth, the most unbounded; sums which seemed, when mentioned, rather the revenue of a province, than the estates of individuals, had been acquired, introduced,

into my country, a strong propension of mind in favour of Asiatic enterprize.

I should be infinitely too cold in my expression, was I merely to say, that the opportunity of engaging in the Company's service, was sought for with avidity : it became the darling passion of the middle rank of people ; it became the first object of fathers, who, from the birth of their sons, formed dreams of wealth, and visionary worlds of gold, which East-Indian adventure was to realize.

Large as the patronage, and extensive as the dominions of the company were, it is conjectured, that had not the diseases of the climate, and wars, occasioned by European rapacity, decreased the number of the votaries of Plutus, the one must have withdrawn its influence, or the other would have been over-run :

over-run: but, owing to these drawbacks, and the various commercial and military employments, which almost annual acquisition of territory produced, the male branches of numerous families, especially if of daring and enterprising spirits, stood a chance to be provided for, or placed in a situation, that rendered further provision unnecessary.

While the worthies of Britain were sacrificing to the god of riches, in the shape of Governors, Counsel, Judges, Generals, Officers, Writers, Merchants, or in subordinate departments: however at first they might be pleased with oriental luxury, and charmed with the glowing beauties of Asia, that satiety which always succeeds fruition; that ardency with which mankind pursue variety, and desire things for no better reason, than because they are out

out of their reach, turn'd their thoughts to the comparatively pale, unripened charms of their fair countrywomen; and as in their scale of reasoning, every thing was to be accomplished by money, they determined no longer to sigh at a distance, for what they had so largely the means of bringing to their arms.

Commissions were directly sent, and vast cargoes of British beauty annually shipped off, which was consigned like bales, to such a Governor, Judge, General, &c. or their order; and parents, whom ambition, dissipation, or other circumstances, precluded from making a proper provision for their daughters in England, found an immense advantage in this kind of commerce, and hailed the happy æra, when Vasco de Gama discovered the passage to the east, which like a nursing mother,

ther, extended her opulent arms, and equally embraced the English youth of both sexes.

I thought, said the lady, this little exordium necessary, before I entered upon my story, as it will serve to account for my appearance in the East-Indies.

The sacrifice of parental dissipation; the victim to the fashionable levities of the age; my birth was in a county not very remote from the metropolis of the island of Great-Britain. Though my father inherited a tolerable paternal estate, and my mother a fortune, which, in any other age, and perhaps country, would have been deemed large; their income, by no means kept pace with their expences. Our family, consisting of a son, another daughter, and myself, from the first dawn of reason,

were

were taught to consider rank and fortune as the greatest of blessings. That to make a figure in the eyes of the world; to acquire, and disperse thousands, were all the reasons for which it was worth while to live. A doctrine so agreeable to the passions of youth, was not heard without attention, by my brother; too well he followed the example of my father, in the subsequent part of it. Neither our fortune, nor scarce any fortune, could latterly equal the profusion of their expences, and, indeed, those of our whole establishment, which though always large, were much increased by the accidental circumstance of neighbourhood.

We were so unfortunate as to live in a village, upon the western coast, remarkable for the mildness and salubrity of its air; this attraction induced many persons, who had accumulated vast fortunes

fortunes in this country, to purchase estates and settle near us. Used as I have since been to Asiatic luxury, I have found it had lost but little by its transplantation into England. Their houses, furniture, plate, servants, tables, equipages, and all attendant paraphernalia, were more in the stile of sovereign princes, than private individuals; and, indeed, individuals, that had, many of them, without any great expence of genius, or obligations to their ancestors, been, by some means or other, the creators of their own fortune, and who had, after an oriental trip, burst from their former obscurity, into their present brilliancy and splendour. Be that as it may, so much opulence and magnificence, under our immediate inspection, inflamed us with a desire of imitation, and a spirit of rivalry, that soon dispersed our fortune; a loss which we regretted the less, as
we

we only deemed it temporary, my brother having, through the interest of a neighbouring Nabob, to whom he had the good fortune to make himself agreeable, obtained a situation, which he imagined would put him in possession of the diamond mines of Golconda, or an equivalent share of riches. My father having, in his prosperity, taken an active part on the court side, in an election, was also, about this time, rewarded with a place.

“ Here,” said Galatie, “ I stop’d the lady, and ask’d her what she meant by taking an active part in an election, as it was the only circumstance of her story, which I had been at a loss to understand.” She replied, “ that might arise from her not being able clearly to comprehend it herself; that all she knew of the matter was, that her father, during the time alluded to, seemed

seemed possessed by a fit of insanity ; that he was continually from home ; running from one house to another ; drinking, quarrelling, fighting.

“ That the party to which he belonged, were adorned with ribbands, and marched every day to the hall, with banners displayed, and music before them. That he amused himself every evening with bawling out the names of his friends at the head of the mob.

“ This was all,” she continued, “ that I could learn from the lady, of this strange kind of ceremony ; but I am inclined to think, that the people she speaks of are inspired, and that it was some kind of religious orgies which she described, like those exhibited by the Fakirs and Dervises in this country ; and perhaps it may be the custom
of

of the English, like the Mahometans, to pay the greatest respect and reverence to those who excel most in the character of madmen." To the observation of Galatie the company assented, and Anime proceeded.

The office to which my father was appointed, had this agreeable circumstance attending it, that it obliged us to reside more constantly in the metropolis, than we had hitherto done. To a scale much less expensive, was our establishment contracted. My brother sailed for the Indies. We heard of his arrival at the place of destination; and as the letter was written with all the ardour and self-flattery attendant upon youth, we hailed his approach to the golden shore, as the period from which the family might date their revival.

The

The capital of a great empire is not the place, where people, used to expensive habits, are likely to exercise the virtues of frugality. We began once more to launch out; pleasure and dissipation courted us on every side, and we supported our appearance, for a time, upon ideal remittances from Indostan.

In this pleasing dream, more than two years elapsed. Letters arrived; not from my brother, a friend of my father's, to whose protection he had been recommended, wrote, that owing to the imprudence of youth, he had fallen a martyr to the diseases of the climate. That he died a month before the date of the epistle. Here, the prop upon which the whole family had leaned for support, had given way. What was to be done? debts accumulated. Was there any retrenchment

gine the reciprocal joy this meeting gave us; that and the succeeding day were too short for mutual relations and inquiries. When our transports had subsided, as the captain retained no symptom of his illness, that could, by the most interested friend, be deemed of consequence, he informed me, that it was necessary that I should be introduced to the French commandant, and his lady, who had, like myself, attended her husband, and to the officers of the garrison; to whose attention and humanity, joined to the skill of the surgeons, Charles acknowledged himself indebted for the preservation of his life. Happy in the acquaintance of people, to whom I considered myself as so much obliged, I was presented in form; when intimacy succeeded, I found their friendship and politeness exceeded every thing that I had heard of it. In elegant parties, and agreeable society, a month passed imperceptibly away; but I should

sooner have mentioned, that a few days after my arrival, to compleat my happiness, a messenger came from Charlotte, to inquire after the captain's health; if he had heard any news of me; and at the same time to inform him, that our children were well, and improved daily.

We now took leave of our friends, and set out for Calcutta, escorted by our own attendants, Hassan and his troop, whose fidelity and services the captain meant to reward more substantially than he had the power to do in the garrison. We arrived safe, alighted at the governor's house, and flew to embrace our children, who justified, in their improvement, all that Charlotte had said of them. That amiable friend, proud of them, as if they had been her own, and elated at our return, would not even hear of acknowledgments; "I have," said she, "barely performed
ed

ed a duty which I owed to friendship, for I considered the protection of infants, whose father and mother were absent, and therefore, in that respect, orphans, so strictly an obligation, both by the laws of nature, and dictates of religion, that, upon the score of gratitude to me, I hope you will close your lips for ever. Indeed," she continued, with a sprightly air, "if any thanks are due, it is my father that deserves them, as he has superintended the nursery, joined in their amusements, and under the form of tales, conveyed to them the best lessons of instruction." The governor, who had just come into the room, embraced the lovely girl, and Charles and I contended which should first receive her into our arms. It hath been said, that misfortunes seldom come alone; I have much greater reason to apply the same observation to happiness; for a few days after our arrival, the governor informed us he was

commanded to return to England, and that Captain Egerton was named as one of the officers that was to accompany him. Before you, my lovely friends, receive this packet, I shall have left the Indian coast: it would be affectation to say, that I return to my native country, so far beyond my deserts, happy and affluent, with regret; yet, if a sigh escapes me on our passage, which I doubt will be the case, when I think of your friendship, it will be from the reflection, that an immense continent, and boundless ocean divides us: that every hour increases the distance, and that probably we shall see each other no more. Let the trifling trinkets which accompany this letter, have a nominal value with you, from bearing the name and resemblance of Maria. When they rest upon your bosoms, and become a part of the ornaments of your dress; or if your religion prevents that, remain in your cabinets for private inspection,

spection, may they recall to your minds the remembrance of my love and esteem for you, and be considered as pledges of a friendship, that extends over more than half the globe, and that pleasing idea will gild the future hours of your affectionate

MARIA EGERTON.

LETTER II.

To Amurath, Selim, and Rustan.

Though unknown to you, my good friends, sure, upon the gratitude of my Maria, I may found a claim to that endearing title; on which presumption, give me leave to return you my thanks, for the services you have rendered, and the protection you have afforded her. As she writes to the lovely and amiable Galatie and Anime, I could not suffer a packet to go, without participating the pleasure she feels in making her

M 3

acknow-

acknowledgments: though that is not entirely the business of this epistle, as I am desired by her to entreat your acceptance of the three rings enclosed; not as a retribution for the favours she has received, and the protection she has met with, those, I fear, it will never be in my power to requite, but as tokens of the sense I have of the obligations we are under to you, and a small, but sincere monument of the gratitude and esteem of

MARIA AND CHARLES EGERTON.

The packet in which these letters were enclosed, contained several magnificent jewels; and what Galatie and Anime esteemed more than the rest, two pictures of Maria, made to hang from the neck by gold chains, and superbly set round with brilliants. The two sisters, joined with their father, Selim and Rustan, in expressions of praise and gratitude to Captain Egerton,

ton, and his lovely wife, whose conjugal felicity was the constant theme of Hassan. He informed them, that so great had been their bounty to him, that he should return to Norival, and his father, in affluence, and that he and his family should, in their daily prayers, constantly remember their benefactors.

CHAP. XV.

THE nuptial hour approach'd. Selim and Rustan, with a large party of their friends, in the most magnificent habits, came and demanded their brides. The two sisters, veil'd from head to foot, were presented to them by Amurath and Erminia. When the Moullah arrived, the conditions of marriage were read; from their apartments they went to the Mosque, where the blessing was pronounced by the Sedre, accompanied by

by all the principal Dervises. The Sha Haly, and Princess Semira, honoured the feast with their presence. The superb entertainments continued several days, and were attended by the relations of the bridegrooms, and all the nobility in Ispahan. When they had been a few weeks married, and the ceremony of visits, which however respectful they might be deem'd, were not very agreeable to Selim, Rustan, or their brides, had subsided, they made preparations to leave the capital. With a large retinue, they travelled together to Ormus, where Amurath and Erminia were welcomed with the most unfeigned marks of friendship; and their triumph over the princes, Omar and Asgar, afforded a holiday to the whole neighbourhood. The hour of separation came at last, Selim and Galatie first left the place, as he had, by a courier from court, which brought orders for him to take immediate possession of his government,

ment, received additional honours. Great were the emotions of these amiable persons at parting, and their absence was soon followed by that of Rustan and Anime. The only consolation to which they at present looked forward, was, that the distance between their habitations was not so great, but that they might frequently correspond, and sometimes see each other. Amurath, now left with Erminia, resolved to withdraw his fortune from commerce, and bestow his whole attention on the place which he held: this he did for a few years; but finding that his age in some degree repress his activity, and wishing for a life entirely domestic, he resigned, much to the regret both of administration, and the whole country, who vied with each other in applauding his integrity. The latter part of the life of Amurath, was attended with every happiness that it was in the power of fortune to bestow, or mortality

mortality to enjoy. Erminia, his beloved Erminia, continued to walk with him a gentle pace down the hill of time. He had the pleasure to see his lovely daughters mothers of numerous and beautiful families, and to know that they were as great ornaments to the maternal, as they had been to the filial character. He had also the satisfaction to observe, that the love and esteem of their husbands towards them, hourly increased, and that the reputation of Selim and Rustan stood so high with their sovereign, that they had been offered the first posts in the administration of public affairs, and the highest commands in the army, which they had refused, from a resolution not to sacrifice their domestic felicity, their family and friendly connexions, to ambition. "Beloved by our wives," said they, "happy in our offspring, and respected by the people over whom we are plac'd, why should we endeavour to ascend, by different

different steps, the ladder of pre-eminence? in our present situation, we are safe from the storms of fortune: but were we to gain the height to which ambition courts us, we should, perhaps, grow giddy with our elevation: excite the envy of our contemporaries, and by some means or other, either from the machinations of enemies, or our own imprudence, be precipitated from the eminence on which we had seated ourselves, into a much lower situation than the present." Amurath was charmed with the sentiments of his sons; but as the bliss of mortals can never be permanent, he was thinking that some circumstance must occur to counterbalance this excess of happiness: after a mental review of his affairs, the fate of Omar and Asgar was the only occurrence upon which he could reflect with any degree of sorrow. "As," said he to Selim, "it was through their means, under the direction of Providence, that we have arrived

arrived to the present happy period, I should not have a wish ungratified, if the princes were released. Severe hath been their sufferings, and as the Omnipotent hath extended his mercy towards us, let us, while it is in our power, extend it to others." Selim, happy to oblige his father, wrote directly to Haly. The princes, who had been imprisoned from the time of the trial, were liberated, upon the condition of their leaving the Persian dominions. They did so, and when they were settled in Indostan, wrote a letter of thanks to Amurath, saying, "that the example which he had set them of returning good for evil, would have its proper influence upon their future conduct:" they afterwards, by their actions, proved what they then asserted, as their lives were irreproachable, and they became worthy members of that society, whose repose they had formerly invaded.

F I N I S.



